Government Museum, Chennai

MUSEUM'S JOURNAL

(October 1999 - March 2000)

Published by

Dr. R. KANNAN, I. A. S.,

Commissioner of Museums,

Government Mussum, Chennai-600 008.

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GOVERNMENT MUSEUM, CHENNAI

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October 1999 – March 2000

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Front Cover
National Art Gallery (Victoria Hall) 1906 A.D.

Back Cover
Museum Theatre, 1896 A.D.

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Letter from the Commissioner...

I am happy to present this issue of the Journal of this museum, for the period from October 1999 to March 2000. As assured in the previous journal, this journal has reached you on time.

Two new museums one at Ramanathapuram and the other at Karur were established within a month's time, which is unique in the history of the Museums Department. Many activities were planned and carried out in both Chennai and district Museums.

In order to improve the campus cleanliness, gallery upkeep and development works, landscaping with flowering plants in front of the main building, restoration of the artistic work of the museum building which bear the ravages of time have been taken up and completed. To be abreast with the knowledge on Museology and other related subjects, new publications were purchased for the Museum Library at a cost of Rs.1.5 lakhs. 15 museum publications, which are out of print and sought after by scholars and 7 new books were published during this period. The list of latest books available for sales are catalogued in this journal.

In order to make easy the registration of antiquities and to make available the information for those whose seek them through the Web site and to send and receive information, Computers, Fax and e-mail have been installed. The Website will be set up by this year. Government have sanctioned Rs.5.00 lakhs for this purpose.

33 repatriated ethnic objects from the Rev. A. W. Brough's collection from Australian Museum were displayed in a special exhibition. Ten oil paintings from Madras Medical College, two paintings and two books from Government Ophthalmic Hospital, Chennai, were restored and handed over to the respective institutions.

In the financial year, 2000-2001, setting up of a Website for the museum, providing toilet facilities with all modern amenities for the convenience of the visiting public in Chennai Museum, modern lighting arrangements for the Contemporary Art Gallery, Storage facilities for paintings, security measures for Rani Mangammal Building of the

Trichirappalli Museum for Rs.40.00 lakhs have been sanctioned and will be executed.

Monthly popular lectures, summer courses, seminars, workshops, exhibitions, competitions etc., were conducted both in Chennai and in the district museums. Curators conducted research on topics, pertaining to their subjects and the outcomes were published in the form of articles and books.

I have given birds' eye view of the important activities that had taken place in the period of six months. Suggestions are welcome on how to improve this journal in future issues.

Chennai-600 008,
19.5.2000.

(R. Kannan, I.A.S.)

A TRIBUTE TO THIRU P. N. MOHANDAS

Thiru P. N. Mohandas
joined in the Department of Museums
as a Curator for Numismatics on 11-07-1948.
He was on deputation to the Fort Museum, Archaeological Survey of Indi
Chennai for few years. He was Custodian of Monuments at Mahabalipura
and also in charge of the fort Museum, Chennai. He joined back as Assista
Director of Museums in the Government Museum, Chennai. He delivered t
Sankara Parvathi Endowment lecture in the
University of Madras. His contribution to
the field of Numismatics is well
understood by
the publications he made in his tenure.
He wrote many popular articles in leading journals. He retired from servic
on 30-09-1972.
After his retirement
from Government service,
he worked as the Director of
the Birla Archaeological and
Cultural Research Institute,
Hyderabad for some years.
He died due to a brief illness
on January 12th 2000
at Hyderabad.
-Dr. V. Jeyaraj

MUSEUM NEWS

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Description of the colour photographs in the previous pages

1. His Excellency Mr. Rob Laurie hands over the art and cultural objects repatriated from Australian museum to Thiru S. Ramakrishnan, IAS., Secretary, Tamil-Development and Religious Endowments Department. Dr. R. Kannan, Commissioner of Museums and Thiru Vinod Daniel, Scientific Officer, Australian Museum look on.

2. After inaugurating the Ramanathapuram Museum, the Honourable ministers Dr. M. Tamizhkkudimagan and Thiru A. Rahman Khan go round the galleries along with Dr. R. Kannan IAS., District Collector Thiru. K.T. Ramachandran, IAS., and other district dignitaries.

3. Thiru M. Sukumaran, Kanchipuram District Collector, after inaugurating an Exhibition in the Kanchipuram Museum on Coins views coins displayed.

4. Training on Tanjore Paintings at Madurai Museum – Participants with the Traditional Artist-Master, Thiru M. Murugesan, Madurai.

5. Honourable Minister Dr. M. Tamizhkkudimagan unveils the name board of the Karur Museum as token of inaugurating the Museum. Dr. R. Kannan, IAS., Commissioner of Museums, Thiru. N. Muruganandam, IAS., District Collector and district dignitaries look on.

6. Students from Salem colleges are restoring the bronze statue of Dr. C. Vijiaraghavachariar.

7. Stone Sculpture of Sadasiva confiscated by the CBCID, Chennai.

8. Taxidermy is being taught in Madurai Museum.

MUSEUM NEWS

Department of Museums – An Introduction

Government Museum, Chennai was established in the year 1851 with 1100 geological objects. This Museum has now developed in to a multipurpose museum with various sections like Archaeology, Numismatics, Anthropology, Botany, Zoology, Geology and Children's Museum. It also includes Education, Design and display and Chemical Conservation sections as supporting branches. In order to impart museum education through out the State of Tamil Nadu, 19 district museums were established in districts of Tamil Nadu. Collection and registration of objects, preservation, research, display and publication are the major objectives of these Museums.

Government Museum, Chennai functions from 9.30 AM to 5.00 PM on all working days. On Fridays and National Holidays this museum is closed.

This Museum Journal includes a number of articles and information about the activities of this Museum from October 1999 to March 2000.

This department has district museums at the following places

1. Government Museum, Thirugokarnam, Pudukkottai-622 002.
2. Government Museum, Navalar Salai,. Salem-636 001.
3. Government Museum, Gandhi Museum Complex, Madurai-625 020
4. Government Museum, Rani Mangammal Hall, Trichirappalli-620 002
5. Government Museum, Fort, Vellore-632 004
6. Government Museum, Municipal Office Complex, Erode-638 001
7. Government Museum, Bali House, 70, Mysore Road, Ooty-643 001
8. Government Museum, Kattur, Coimbatore-642 009.
9. Government Museum, Government Hospital Road, Cuddalore-607 001.
10. Government Museum, St. Mark's Road, Samathanapuram, Palayamkottai, Thirunelveli-627 002.
11. Government Museum, Gandhi Memorial Road, Kanyakumari-622 702.
12. Government Museum, Near Apsara Theatre, Krishnagiri-635 001.
13. Government Museum, Foot of the Hills, Kazhani-624 601.
14. Government Museum, Weekly Market Road, Sivaganga-630 561.
15. Government Museum, A/M Thiagarajaperumal Temple, Thiruvarur-2.

16. Government Museum, 35, First Line Beach, Nagapattinam-609 001.
17. Government Museum, 117, Munusamy Avenue, Kanchipuram-636 501.
18. Government Museum, Asanammal Buildings, Head Post Office Road, Ramanathapuram-623 501.
19. Government Museum, Municipal Commercial Complex, Karur.

District Museums function on all days from 9.30 AM to 5.00 PM except Fridays, Second Saturdays and National Holidays.

Special Features

The Hon'ble Minister for Tamil Official Language, Tamil Culture, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments, Dr. M. Tamizhkkudimagan, inaugurated the seminar on Coins of Tamil Nadu, Siddha Medical Camp, New schemes on Holographic Gallery and Finger printing of Bronzes on 16.12.1999 in the Museum Theatre, Government Museum, Chennai.

On 28.2.2000 Australian High Commissioner to India His Excellency Rob Laurie A.M. handed over 33 artefacts from the Rev. A.W. Brough's collection from Australian Museum, Sydney to the Special Secretary to Government, Tamil Development – Culture, Hindu Religious and Endowments Department, Thiru S. Ramamkrishnan, I.A.S., who in turn handed over them to Dr. R. Kannan, I.A.S., Commissioner of Museums. These artefacts were collected by Rev. Anthony Watson Brough from Kanjikoil a village in Erode district during 1894 to 1934. Mr. Vinod Daniel, Scientist, Australian Museum, Sydney offered his felicitation. A special exhibition of these artefacts organised in the gallery of contemporary art was inaugurated by His Excellency Rob Laurie A.M., the Australian High Commissioner on 28.2.2000.

The district museum at Ramanathapuram and Karur were inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister Dr.M.Tamizhkkudimagan on 22.3.2000 and 26.3.2000 respectively. Hon'ble Minister for Labour Welfare and Employment, Thiru A. Rahman Khan presided over the function at Ramanathapuram, and the District Collector Thiru N. Muruganandam, I.A.S., presided over the function at Karur. Members of the parliament, Legislative Assembly and other District dignitaries participated in the inaugural functions.

Important Additions

As Treasure trove Finds:

In Chennai

Two Crawling Krishna, one rattle, Deeparathana plates and other miscellaneous articles (17th Century AD) were received as treasure-trove finds from Dindigul and Perambalur districts and added to the archaeological collections of the Government Museum, Chennai.

10 gold ornaments like Varikundu Natchathirapoo etc, 3 silver ornaments like Ottiyanam, Thalikundu etc, four copper coins and one copper container were received as treasure-trove objects from Karaikurichi village, Perambalur District and added to the anthropological collections of the Museum.

Two treasure-trove finds consisting of 7 East India Company silver coins, 21 Queen Victoria silver coins and 841 copper coins were received and added to the numismatic collections of the museum

In Districts

Pudukkottai

A bronze idol of Ardhanarisvara received from the Chief Judicial Magistrate Court, Kumbakonam and one stone pillar with inscription of Aranthangi Thondaimans (1640 AD) from Mimisal were added to the collection of the Government Museum, Pudukkottai.

Madurai

Two brass bars (7Kg.) from Usilampatti and one 18th Century AD bronze image of Devi

Devi Bronze Image

(Ht.45cm.) from Samanartham village were received as treasure - trove objects in the museum.

Tiruchirapalli

A bronze Nataraja (12th Century AD) of height 84 cms, breadth-75 cms from Mummudicholamangalam village, a bronze Devi (15th Century AD) from Pazhur village and 790 copper coins of Rajaraja I from Somarasampettai village were received as treasure - trove objects in the Museum

Cuddalore

A bronze Vishnu from Chidambaram Taluk was received as a treasure - trove object in the Museum.

Vellore

Two stone pillars with inscriptions belonging to the Rajaraja Chola I period from Polur, one stone inscription of Venkadapati Raya of Vijayanagara dynasty from Rajapalayam and one Thirthankara sculpture from Ponnagar were received in the Museum.

Coimbatore

A set of three defaced and mutilated stone sculptures from Sri Thaeneeswar temple of Vellalur were received as treasure - trove objects in the Museum

Krishnagiri

Two hero stones, one stone pillar with sculptured relief and a few metalware objects were received as treasure - trove finds in the Museum.

Tirunelveli

One memorial stone and a head mutilated Vishnu with Devi sculptures from Veerakeralampudur were received as treasure- trove objects in the Museum

Pazhani

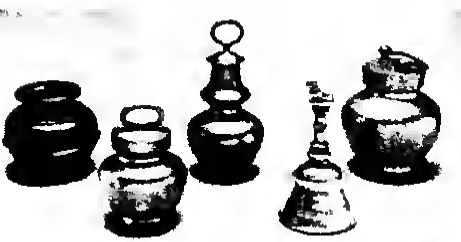
A hero stone (16th Century AD) from Atthimarathurvalasu was received as treasure -trove in the Museum.

Tiruvarur

A bronze Devi with pedestal (14th Century AD 53 cm. Height, 10.7 Kg Weight) was received from Kodavasal taluk as a treasure –trove object in the museum.

Through Field Collection and Gift

In Chennai



Some of the repatriated Art and Cultural Objects fromAustralian museum

33 numbers of art and cultural objects from the collections of Rev A.W. Brough from Kanjikoil, Erode District, repatriated from Australian Museum, Sydney, (Anthropology); 188 molluscan shells belonging to 99 species collected from Cuddalore (Zcology); 60 vascular plants collected and dry preserved and some siddha medicinal raw materials received from Dr Kunrathur Ramamurthy as gift (Botany); 25 first day covers, 25 stamps and leaflets received as gift from Postal Department (Numismatics); 15 colour prints pertaining to planets, 14 colour prints illustrating the chronological events in the development of communication system, 5 working models illustrating the working principles of electricity and magnetism were prepared (Children's Museum), 6 multicolour granite specimens from Department of Geology and Mining and 4 multicolour granite specimens from Tamilnadu Minerals Limited as gift (Geology) were added to the collections.

In Districts

Pudukkottai

6 specimens of birds, 22 species of insects and 25 nos of herbal plants (Herbarium) were added to its collections.

Madurai

Two copper coins of Nayak period from Mr.Srikanth, 14 first day covers and 12 brochures from the Department of Posts were received as gifts.

Salem

15 numbers of stone inscriptions, and one hero-stone were received from Public Works Department, Salem. 27 numbers of beetles, moths and butterflies were collected, preserved and added to its collections

Erode

54 National Flags of various countries, 10 herbarium of medicinal plants and 2 preserved snakes were added to the collection.

Cuddalore

Some anthropological objects Tripod, Stone grinder, *Pallanguzhi*, etc , from Thiruvadhigai village and a meteoroid were collected and added to its collections.

Vellore

13 first day covers and stamps from postal Department, 21 fragments of an old Chola temple from Thirumalpur were collected and added to its collections

Coimbatore

247 Wood carvings from Sri Avinasilingeswar temple car, megalithic tools from Vannathangarai 'prehistoric buman habitation site', inscribed terracotta slabs, inscribed terracotta goddess image and a brass betel nut crusher from Dr. R. Poongunran, 5 stone sculptures from Sri.

Thaeneeswar Temple and a bronze Chandrasekhara as confiscated item from Tirupur were collected and added to its collections.

Krishnagiri

Two snakestones (Nagakkal), a bundle of palm leaf mauscripts from Mr. Kalai Shanmugam, and a preserved specimen of Krait snake were added to its collections

Tirunelveli

One oil painting from Thiru Pitchai Fernando, 12 first day covers with stamps from Postal Department, 2 zoological, 1 botanical and 3 anthropological specimens such as fish, lamb, *marakka, mariambu*, etc., were received as gift, different kinds of lamps and some metal ware objects made of bell metal from Vakaikulam and a few terracotta objects from Karukuruchi were collected through field collection and displayed.

Kanyakumari

14 first day covers and descriptive cards from Postal Department, Eknath Ranade's photograph and biography from Vivekananda Kendra, six terracotta objects through purchase were added to its collections

Sivaganga

30 stamps from Postal Department, 8 modern coins and 8paper currency belonging to Singapore, Malaysia, Srilanka, Pakistan and India were received as gift 29 herbaria trough field collection, two knives, a spinning wheel, a terracotta horse and a gun powder flask through donation were added to its collections.

Pazhani

A palm-leaf manuscript bundle, a 8 feet long rat snake, a sea snake and 4 sea fishes as gift 100 stamps and 9 first day covers from Thiru Solar Subramaniam, 67 used Indian stamps and 20 numbers of old coins from Thiru Mathesh kumar; 4 bundles of palm leaf manuscripts from Dr Krishnamoorthy, 26 first day covers and stamps from Postal Department, were added to its collections.

Thiruvarur

3 coins and 2 paper currency of Malaysia, a 1000 DM currency note of Berlin, 15 herbaria of medicinal plants, an abnormal gourd shaped chicken egg were added to its collection.

Nagapattinam

36 modern coins of various countries including East India Company and a preserved stuffed specimen of sea crab were added to its collections.

Kanchipuram

51 Pallava coins from Prof K A Thirugnanasambandam, Erode; 13 old coins from Thiru Venkatesan, Kanchipuram; 31 East India Company coins, 14 commemorative coins, ten old paper currencies, a first day cover and 107 stamps from Thiru C Kathirvel, as gift and several specimens of shells, corals, sponges and a trunk fish specimen were added to this Museum through field collection.

VIP Visits

In Chennai

Hon'ble Minister for Tamil Official Language, Tamil Culture and Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments, Dr M Tamizhkkudimagan, paid a visit to the Museum on 16 12.99 to inaugurate the seminar on "Coins of Tamil Nadu".

His Excellency Rob Laurie A.M the Australian High Commiasioner in India paid a visit to the Museum on 28 2 2000 .

Thiru S. Ramakrishnan, I A S., Special Commissioner and Secretary, Tamil Development Culture and Hindu Religious Endowments Department visited the Museum on 28.2.2000.

In Districts

Thiru Sudarsana Nachi appan, Member of Parliament, Sivaganga visited Government Museum, Madurai on 27.3.2000.

Dr. M. Tamizhkkudimagan, Hon'ble Minister for Tamil Official Language, Tamil Culture and Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments, visited the Government Museum, Krishnagiri on 2.12.99 and Government Museum, Trichirappalli on 7.1.2000.

Dr. M Tamizhkkudimagan, Hon'ble Minister visited the Government Museum, Kanyakumari along with Thiru N. Suresh Rajan, Hon'ble Minister for Tourism, and Tmt. S. Jenifer Chandran, Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries on 29.12.99.

Hon'ble Minister for Tamil Official Language, Tamil Culture and Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments, Dr. M. Tamizhkkudimagan inaugurated the museum at Ramanathapuram on 22.3.2000. Hon'ble Minister for Labour Welfare and Employment, Thiru A. Rahman Khan, presided over the function. Leading personalities of the district spoke on the occasion.

Hon'ble Minister for Tamil Official Language, Tamil Culture and Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments, Dr. M. Tamizhkkudimagan inaugurated the museum at Karur on 26.3.2000. Leading personalities of tbe district spoke on the occasion.

Research Facilities Offered and Loan of Objects

In Chennai

Research facilities were rendered to the following persons (Archaeology) Ms. Sung Mey Kun, Singapore; Thiru Easwaran, Juan R. Fransisco. Thailand; Mr. Qwasi Arbo, Belgium; Ms. Sarada, Thiru Ramachandra Rao, Hyderabad, Thiru P. Asoka, Dr. Muthukkumaraswamy, Chennai and Dr, Michael, London.

Research facilities were offered to 5 M. Sc., students from Madras Christian College, Tambaram to identify the insect specimens and to preserve the insect specimens.(Zoology)

Research facilities were rendered to Selvi M. Bhavani, Research Ph.D., student, Tanjore, Tamil University on the "Coins of Medieval Period" (Numismatics)

Specimen of Archaeology, Botany, Geology and Plaster cast coins were given on loan to Loyola College, Angel Matriculation Higher Secondary School and M.C.T. Muthiah Higher Secondary School, Chennai for exhibitions and received back.

In Districts

Madurai

Research facilities were rendered to Ms. Priya ('The Festivals of Madurai Nayaks'); Ms. Ida Baby ('Leather Puppets'); Thiru M Paulpandi ('Somasundara Alavoy Thamarai Bharani'); Dr. Jarbahansing Bedi ('Old Manuscripts and Myths'); Ms. V. Saraswathi ('Chithirai Festival in a Tourism Approach')

Salem

Research facilities were rendered to Tmt R.Vijaya ('Sri Soundararaja Perumal Temple' Salem)

Erode

Research facilities were rendered to Thiru Nal Natarasan ('Erode District'); Thiru Pon. Marutha Muthu('Kongu Nattu Padalkal from Palm leaf documents')

Coimbatore

Research facilities were offered to Thiru M. Gunasekaran (Ethnobotany), Selvi J. Christy Veda (Ancient History and Archaeology); Thiru C. N. Krishnan (Erotic Sculptures); Thiru Shanmugam (Roman Jwelleries in Treasure- trove); Thiru Venkat (Prehistoric period) and Thiru Prabakar (Forensic study through sculpture)

Krishnagiri

Research facilities were rendered to Selvi J. Christy Veda (Archaeological objects of the Museum); Selvi. Rani, Veena and Prabha (Forts in Krishnagiri)

Tirunelveli

Research facilities were rendered to Thiru Sudarsan and Thiru Diraviam (Technical Changes in the way of Drawing); Thiru Jayakumar (Sati stone), Tmt. Mankayarkarasi (Thirupathy and nine Kailayams); Thiru Durai Raj (Terracottas); Thiru Vedachalam (Mahavira Stone sculpture of Melanalandula village)

Study materials were loaned to St. Xavier's and Senaithalapathi Higher Secondary School for exhibition and got back.

Kanyakumari

Research facilities were offered to Thiru Anantha Kumar (Muthuramman) and Dr. Samuel Dasan (Anthropology).

Study Materials were loaned to Tourism Department for the special exhibition, in connection with Thiruvalluvar statue inaugural function and got back.

Nagapattinam

Research facilities were offered to Thiru Alice Patten and Thiru Peter Torner of England (Nagapattinam and Buddhism)

Kanchipuram

Research facilities were offered to Thiru Babu P. Ramesh of New Delhi (South Indian Bronzes and Temple Architecture)

Training Courses, Competitions and Celebrations

The following training programmes, courses, enmpetitions and celebrations were conducted at the Government Museum, Chennai and districts

02–10–1999	'Wild Life Day' celebrations in Government Museum, Pudukkottai
31–10–1999	'Painting Competition' for 800 school children of 70 schools in Government Museum, Tiruchirapalli.
13–11–1999	'Children's Day Celebrations 1999' in Government Museum, Pudukkottai. Dr. R. Kannan, I.A.S., Commissioner of Museums and Thiru Harmander Singh, I.A.S., District Collector participated.
14–11–1999	'Children's Day Celebrations and Drawing Competition'. 150 students participated in Government Museum, Salem.
17–11–1999	Children's Day competitions in Government Museum, Pazhani.
20–11–1999	'Child Art Competition' in Government Museum, Krishnagiri
21–11–1999	'Child Art Competition' Exhibition-cum-Children's day Celebrations - 1999. Thiru.V. Murthy, I.A.S., District Collector inaugurated the exhibition in Government Museum, Trichirappalli
22–11–1999	'Taxidermy'–Lecture cum demonstration for 30 animal keepers in the Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Vandalur (Zoology Section)
Nov–Dec 1999	"Conservation of Art Objects" for six students of the Government College of Arts & Crafts, Chennai (Chemical Conservation)
01–12– 1999 to 03–12– 1999	'Taxidermy' training for college students in Government, Museum, Madurai.- conducted by Thiru P. Jawahar Curator, Zoology Section, Government Museum, Chennai
18–12– 1999 to 19–12– 1999	Conservation of Cultural Treasures training programme for the 43 numismatists, students and public organised by the Trichirappalli Museum and Trichirappalli Numismatic Society in the Government Museum, Trichirappalli-

	Conducted by Dr.V.Jeyaraj, Curator, Chemical Cooservation and Research Laboratory, Government Museum, Chennai.
21-12-1999 to 07-01-2000	'Archaeology' A training programme for History students of C.N.C. College, Erode-10 lectures were delivered by eminent scholars during the training programme in Government Museum, Erode
21–12– 1999 to 31–01– 2000	'Tanjore Painting' Training Programme in Government Museum, Madurai -Training given by Thiru M. Murugesan, Traditional Artist, Madurai.
26–01– 2000	'Republic Day Celebrations in Government Museum, Erode
27–01– 2000	Thiruvalluvar's Day celebrations - Various competitions to school children in Government Museum, Cuddalore
10–02– 2000	'Thiruvalluvar's Day Competitions in Government Museum, Cuddalore.
19–02– 2000 to 12–03– 2000	Fine Arts Trainiog Programme in Government Museum, Krishnangiri.
06–03– 2000 to 12–03– 2000	Museum week celebrations, Drawing, Essay writiog, quiz competitions and special lectures in Government Museum, Pazhani
08–03– 2000	World Women's Day Celebrations – Training on tailoring for 50 students of Bharathidasan Arts and Science College and Housewifes- collaborated with Anna Institute of Tailoring Technical Board, Erode (Government Museum, Erode).
08–03– 2000 to 09–03– 2000	Training programme on 'Museology' for 70 college students in Government Museum, Pudukkottai.
24–03– 2000	Annual Day Celebrations – lecture oo 'Educational Activities', 'Museums' in Government Museum, Kanchipuram.

Art Training Programme in lawn, were conducted to 70 middle class students in collaboration with North Arcot Artists Association, in Government Museum, Vellore.

Seminar, Workshop, Camps and Lectures

The Department of Museums conducted the following seminars in Chennai and districts as follows:

16–12– 1999	'Coins of Tamilnadu' Seminar organised in collaboration with the Madras Coins Society (Numismatics section, Chennai).
18–03– 2000	'History of Pudukkottai in the 20th Century'-Government Museum, Pudukkottai.
29–12– 1999	'Tippu Sultan-250'-Conference-Government Museum, Trichirappalli.
31–12– 1999	'Palm - leaf Manuscripts'-One day seminar-Government Museum, Pazhani.
01–02– 2000 to 03–02– 2000	Workshop on 'Preservation of Bronzes and Library Materials' Government Museum, Salem in collaboration with Dr. Vijiayaraghavachariar Memorial Lihrary, Salem(conducted by Dr. V Jeyaraj, Curator, Chennai

Free Siddha Medical Camps were conducted along with popular lectures and yoga demonstration in the Government Museum, Chennai on 16th December, 1999, 19th January, 16th February, 15th March 2000 and hundreds benefited (Botany Section, Chennai)

Yoga demonstration was conducted by Dr. Tmt. K. Rajeswari during three camps and Dr. M. Logamanian during one camp

16–12– 1999	Malarum Marutthuvamum – Dr V. Arunachalam, Siddha Medical College, Chennai
19–01– 2000	Siddha Medicine for Asthma-Dr Tmt K. Rajeswari, Siddha Medical College, Chennai.
16–02– 2000	'Mercurial Medicines'-Dr. Puthur Jayaprakash Narayanan, Siddha Medical College, Chennai.
15–03– 2000	'Prevention Better than Cure'-Dr.G Ganapathy, Siddha Medical College, Chennai

Presentation/Participation in Seminars/Workshops

In Chennai

22–10– 1999	The Role of Museums io the Conservatioo of Archaeological finds in Tamilnadu' – Seminar oo Tamilagam in the view of Archaeology – Dr V Jeyaraj
23–10– 1999	'Iconography of Ciodadevi' – Article presented in the Seminar conduced by the State Department of Archaeology – Thiru K. Lakshminarayanan
23–10– 1999	The motifs and legends on the coins of Arcot Nawabs – seminar organised by the Tamil Nadu Historical Coogress at Vaniambadi 1999 - Dr. V. Jeyaraj
16–12– 1999	'The New Coin fiods of the Arcot Nawabs' – Seminar on Coins of Tamilnadu organised by Government Museum, Chennai io collaboratioo with the Madras Coios Society 1999 – Dr. V. Jeyaraj.
20–12– 1999	"Collection of objects for Rail Museum, Chennai "– Dr R. Kannan,I.A.S., Commissiooer of Museums "Conservation of Railway Antiquities "– Dr V Jeyaraj Seminar on Restoration of Heritage Buildings, organised by the Southern Railway, Chennai – 1999.
22–01– 2000	1. A technical study oo a Bronze Anklet 2. Conservatioo of cloth decorated fans 3. Restoration of Soft Paste Porcelain Plates – semioar oo Conservation of Decorative Arts organised by the Associatioo for the Study of Conservation of Cultural Property in India at Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad, Jan.2000 – Dr V Jeyaraj, Curator, Chemical Conservation and Research Laboratory
21–10– 1999 to 22–10– 1999	'Rock Paiotings in Tamilnadu' – Seminar on Tamilagam in the view of Archaeology – organised by the State Department of Archaeology – 1999 – Thiru M Mohan, Curator for Art
16–12– 1999	' Two rare coins of Early Pallava' – Seminar on Coins of Tamilnadu in collaboration with Madras Coins Society – Smt. R. Santhi, Curator, Numismatics.

03–03– 2000 'Old Cities and New Cultures' organised by the British Council Division and Friends of the Dakshinachitra – International Seminar 'Museum - A Bridge Between Old Cities and New Cultures' – Dr. R. Kannan, I.A.S.

In Districts

30–11– 1999 'The Maritime Activities in the Minor Ports in Thanjavur Districts in 18th-19th Centures' – 6th International Islamic Tamil Literary Conference, Chennai from 30.11.99 to 2.12.99 – Dr. J. Raja Mohammed, Curator, Government Museum, Pudukkottai

27–12– 1999 'Tippu Sultan and His Religious Policies' – Tippu Sultan – 250 – Conference organised by Government Museum, Trichirappalli –Dr. J. Raja Mohammed, Curator, Government Museum, Pudukkottai

25–11– 1999 to 26–11– 1999 'The Indigenous Knowledge System of Nilgiri tribes on Environment' Lecture demonstration in the Workshop on Environmental Awareness at Kotagiri by CPR Environmental Education Centre – Dr. C. Maheswaran, Curator, Government Museum, Coimbatore

11–02– 2000 to 12–02– 2000 'Tribes of the Western Ghats' – Illustrated Talk in the Training Camp on Environment Awareness held at Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary – Dr. C. Maheswaran, Curator, Government Museum, Coimbatore

16–02– 2000 'Archaeology of Kongu Country So Far' – Keynote address in the Seminar on 'Archaeology of Kongu Country, Perur – Dr. C. Maheswaran, Curator, Government Museum, Coimbatore

Popular and Special Lectures

In Chennai

Popular Lectures

27–10– 1999 Jain Iconography -Thiru K. Lakshminarayanan, Curator, Education Section

30–11– 1999 Recent Archaeological Finds in Tamil Nadu - Thiru A. Abdul Majid, Deputy Superintending Archaeologist, Chennai.

23–12– 1999 Indian Art, Dr. M.C. Joshi, Retd. Director General of Archaeology, New Delhi.

31–01– 2000 A Holistic Approach to Dating in Ancient Indian History - Dr. R. Kannan, I.A.S., Commissioner of Museums, Chennai.

25–02– 2000 Museum Management - Dr. R.Kannan,I.A.S., Commissioner of Museums, Chennai

In Districts

23–02– 2000 'A few European Museums' – Dr. T. Ravichandran (Madurai)

13–10– 1999 Tamil contribution of Maharishi Suddhanandha Bharathi' Thiru C. Pakiratha Nachiappan (Sivaganga).

10–02– 2000 'Nilgiris under the Europeans' – Prof.S. Selvanayagi (Ooty)

28–02– 2000 'Archaeological Objects' – Thiru V. Ramamirtham (Thiruvarur).

Special Lectures

Dr.V. Jeyaraj, Curator, Chemical Conservation and Research Laboratory

10–01– 1999 Conservation of Tanjore Panel paintings, conducted for the Curators of the Museum as well as a foreign scholar

04–01– 2000 Salvaging and Conserving Cultural Materials, Monthly Popular Lecture delivered in the Salem Museum

05–01– 2000 Collection and Conservation of Museum Objects, Lecture for the participants of a course for College Students in the Government Museum, Erode.

12–01– 2000 Museology and Career Guidance, Course organised by the Erode Thindal Rotary Club.

08–02– 2000 Museums and Architecture lecture delivered for students of School of Architecture, Anna University and Curators of the Museum.

11–03– 2000 Revival in Science, Art and Culture in Museums, lecture delivered for the members of the Adyar Tamil Sangam.

Thiru J.R. Asokan,Curator, Design and Display Section

10–12–1999 'Snakes', 'Pollution', and quiz programme on 'Wild life', during the environmental conservation workshop conducted by the Government Arts College, Cheyyar

In Districts

Thiru M. Gandhi, Curator, Government Museum, Vellore

Nov' 1999 'Importance of Museums' – Illustrated lectured at B.Ed. College, St. Mount Carmel Matriculation School and Vani Vidyalaya, Vellore.

Jan' 2000 'History of Vellore' – A lecture to the History students of Muthurangam Govt. Arts College, Vellore.

Dr. C. Maheswaran, Curator, Government Museum, Coimbatore

09–01–2000 'An Introduction to Archaeology' – Marxist Study Centre, Coimbatore.

06–03–2000 'History Museum: Its History Status' - inaugural function of History Museum at Govt.College of Arts and Science, Coimbatore

22–03–2000 'Ancient History of Coimbatore in Anthropological Perspectives' – Study Circle Meeting at Canara Bank, Kovindampalayam.

07–03–2000 'Treasure Trove Act' – Lecture to Village Administrative Officers at Taluk Office, Coimbatore (North).

Thiru C. Govindarajan, Curator, Government Museum, Ooty

14–01–2000 'An Introduction to Archaeology' at Emerald Women's College, Ooty

Tmt. J.M. Gandhimathi, Curator, Government Museum, Kanchipuram

24–03–2000 Felicitation in the First Annual Day Celebrations of Junior Red Cross Society at Gurunanak College, Velachery.

Thiru N. Soundarapandian, Curator, Government Museum, Kanyakumari.

28–01–2000 'Manitha Neyam' – special talk in the function organised by Schedule Caste Welfare Department, Nagercoil.

Radio–talks/Television programmes

13–11–1999 "The Preservation of Antiquities"(Tamil) in All India Radio, Madurai - Thiru P. Sam Sathiaraj, Curator, Government Museum, Madurai.

05–01–2000 Polymer T V Channel – "Government Museum and Temples of Salem"-Interview with Thiru P.Kasilingam, Curator, Government Museum, Salem

06–03–2000 'Tamil Culture Through Archaeology'-All India Radio, Ooty-Thiru C Govindarajan, Curator, Government Museum, Ooty

04–11–1999 'Collections of the Government Museum, Kanchipuram-'Endrum Ilamai' TV programme -Tmt J.M. Gandhimathi, Curator, Government Museum, Kanchipuram.

Participation in Workshops, Expert Committees, Seminars, Lectures etc

03–12–1999 'Indo-German Workshop on Conservation of Heritage Monuments' organised by INTACH Tamilnadu Chapter & I.I.T., Chennai at I.I.T., Chennai – Dr. R. Kannan, I.A.S., Commissioner of Museums, Dr.V. Jeyaraj, Thiru M. Mohan, Thiru D Jawahar Prasad Raj, Thiru R. Balasubramanian, Thiru K. Sekar, Curators, Government Museum, Chennai

27–12–1999 and 28–01–2000 'Expert Committee on Export of Non-antiquities at Archaeological Survey of India Chennai Circle – Thiru R. Balasubramanian, Curator, Government Museum, Chennai.

21–01–2000 and 22–01–2000 'Fund raising and sponsorship' – Sanskrit Institute of Management for Cultural Orgnisation at Dakshina Chitra, Muttukkadu - Thiru K. Lakshminarayanan, Thiru M. Mohan, Thiru R. Balasubramanian, Curators, Government Museum, Chennai.

03–03–2000 International Seminar/Workshop on 'Old Cities and New Cultures' Organised by the British Council Division and Friends of the Dakshina Chitra, Chennai – Thiru K. Lakshminarayanan and Dr. V. Jeyaraj, Curators Government Museum, Chennai.

Renovation and Improvements to the Museums

Archaeology Section

Acrylic sheet enclosures were made and fixed for the important bronzes in the Bronze Gallery to avoid dust, human touch and moisture. Construction of a Strong Room for the safe custody of reserve collection of bronzes was carried out.

Botany Section

Diorama display arrangements of the Sangam literature plants along with preserved original plants with botanical and vernacular names. Plantation and maintenance of flowering plants in the frontage of the Museum campus.

Geology Section

One showcase was renovated along with dioramic display arrangements and geological specimens were displayed for public view.

National Art Gallery and Contemporary Art Gallery

Reorganized display arrangements in the art galleries and new Tanjore Art paintings were displayed

Numismatic Section

Reorganisation and display arrangements in the showcases of the 'Kushan' coins of Numismatic Gallery were done.

Children's Museum

In the Civilisation Gallery the Hebrew Civilisation semi - dioramic display arrangements were reorganised.

In the Costume Dolls Gallery the showcase illustrating Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala State costume were reorganised.

In the Physical Science Gallery 12 electronic gadgets were prepared, displayed and changed fortnightly to explain the basic principles of electricity and electronics.

In the Transportation Gallery two miniature working scale models of train and two remote control working aeroplane models were displayed, as interactive display.

In the Technology Gallery reorganisation work was on progress.

Chemical Conservation Section

Objects belonging to the Department of Museums such as 7 oil paintings, 14 bronze icons, 33 anthropological objects consisting of musical instruments and tribal objects, 400 Raja Raja Chola copper coins; two cloth decorated fans from Sivaganga Museum were suitably conserved.

Design and Display Section

Design and Display arrangements for the special exhibition on 'Repatriated ethnic objects from Australia' at Government Museum, Chennai, all the design and display arrangements to set up two new district museums at Ramanathapuram and Karur, matters related to the procurement of 6 computers, printers and other peripherals, fax and internet provisions and re printing of 15 publications were carried out.

Education Section

Guide services to school and college students were arranged. Co-ordinated the educational activities of the Museum. V.I.P. visits were handled. Arranged the popular lectures in the Museum and co-ordinated in

the two day s Workshop on " Symbols in Indian Art organised by the FICCI ladies in which, Thiru Agrawal Koman, U.S.A. delivered a special lecture.

In Districts

Vellore

Three semi-dioramic display arrangements of Zoological specimens, 8' x 4' size painting of temple car, Kattunaicken palanquin, 61 stone sculptures, fragments of inscribed slabs, 5 different estampages, maps of Tamilnadu and North Arcot were displayed suitably.

Coimbatore

247 woodcarvings and 8 stone sculptures were displayed in the respective panels of the Museum.

Krishnagiri

Reorganisation of display panels, modernisation of two old showcases, display arrangements, and pedestal construction for sculptures and inscribed stone slabs were carried out

Kanyakumari

Plaster cast models pertaining to Indus Valley Civilisation objects, contemporary paintings, terracotta objects were displayed in the gallery.

Exhibitions

In Chenaai

16–12–1999 to 19–12–1999	Special exhibition on "Coins of Tamil Nadu"-in collaboration with Madras Coins Society, (Numismatic Section)

16–12–1999	Holography and Finger - printing of Bronze Icons (Chemical Conservation Section).
17–02–2000	Restored paintings of the Madras Medical College (Chemical Conservation Section).
28-02-2000	Special Exhibitioo on "Repatriated Ethnic Objects of Rev. A. W. Brough from Australian Museum"

In Districts

03–03–2000	Conservation of Bronze and Library Materials- Government Museum, Salem, Chemical Conservation Section, Government Museum, Chennai and Dr. C. Vijiaraghavachariar Memorial Library, Salem
10–03–2000 to 13–03–2000	Herbal Medicioes – Government Museum, Pudukkottai
26–03–2000 to 28–03–2000	Participated in the Multi-media Exhibitioo – organised by the District Collector to project the activities of the various departments – Government Museum, Pudukkottai
29–12–1999	'Tippu Sultan-250" –Coins, Stamps, Records, Photographs, Paintings, and News clippings relating to Tippu Sultan displayed – Government Museum, Trichirapalli
20–11–1999	"Child Art Exhibition" – Government Museum, Krishnagiri
31–12–1999	Palm-leaf Manuscripts – Government Museum, Pazhani
18–03–2000 to 20–03–2000	"Manifesto of Multi Departments" - Museum stall displayed – inaugurated by the District Collector – Government Museum, Tiruvarur.

27-01-2000 to 03-02-2000 "Coins" inaugurated by the District Collector, Thiru Shiv Dass Meena, I.A.S., - Government Museum, Nagapattinam

24-03-2000

"Coins" inaugurated by the Kanchipuram District Collector Thiru A. Sukumaran, I.A.S.,- Government Museum, Kanchipuram

New Museums aud change of locatious of Museums

22-03-2000	Government Museum, Ramanathapuram at 13, Head Post Office Road, Asanammal Building, Ramanathapuram-623 501.
26-03-2000	Government Museum, Karur at Daily Market Complex Building, Municipal Commercial Complex 1st floor, Karur
Nov' 1999	The Government Museum, Coimbatore was shifted from the Library Buildings to a school in Kattur.
Mar' 2000	Government Museum, Tiruneveli was shifted to St Mark's Road, Near Water Tank, Samathanapuram, Palayamkottai-627 002.

Publication

During the financial year 1999 – 2000, 7 books were published and 15 books reprinted and brought to the Sales Counter.

Books

1. Documentation on the Cannons in the Government Museum, Chennai (Madras) – Dr.R.Kannan,I.A.S., Commissioner of Museums and R. Balasubramanian ,Curator.
2. "Scientific facts about snakes"- (Tamil) Booklet –Thiru J.R.Asokan,Curator,Design and Display Section, Chennai,
3. "Tamil Nadu Coins" – Seminar proceedings Jounral – Editor Mrs.R.Santhi,Curator, Numismatics.
4. Conservation of Cultural Property (English)- Editor Dr. V. Jeyaraj.
5. *Erode Mavatta Koilgal* (Tamil) – Editor Dr. V. Jeyaraj (Seminar proceedings).
6. Museum Journal (Tamil) - Editors Thiru K.Lakshminarayanan and Dr.V.Jeyaraj.
7. Museum Journal (English) -Editors Thiru K.Lakshminarayanan and Dr.V.Jeyaraj.

List of Books reprinted daring the financlal year 1999-2000 and available for sale

1. The Adichanallur Skulls- S.Zuckerman
2. Sri Vaishnava Brahmin – Diwan Bahadur K. Rangachar
3. Early Eastern and Chalukya Scultpure – C.Sivaramamurthi
4. Select Statavahana Coins – M. Ramarao
5. Excavation of Kilpauk – M. D.Raghavan and N.Devasahayam
6. Scripts in and around India – V.Kannaiyan
7. கலைச் செல்வங்கள் – ரா.நாகசாமி,
8. Buddhist Sculpture stupa near Gobi Village – T.N.Ramachandran
9. Nayars of Malabar – F.Fawcett
10. Copper plate grants – R.Srinivasa Ayyangar
11. List of Tombs and Monuments in and around Madras – Julian James Cotton, C.S.
12. Story of Buddhism – A.Aiyappan and P.R.Srinivasan
13. Nolamba Scultpures-C.Sivaramamurti

14. The Preservation of Zoological Specimen – P.Jawahar
15. Report of the Socio-economic condition of the Tribes of Tamil Nadu – Dr. A.Aiyappan

Articles

1. Iconography of Cindadevi - proceedings of the Seminar on Tamilagam in the view of Archaeology, State Archaeology, Chennai, December 1999 – Thiru K.Lakshminarayanan

2. Certain Terms used to Describe the conditions and parts of Coins – Proceedings of the Seminar on Coins of Tamilnadu - Thiru K.Lakshminarayanan

3. Pamphlet on Government Museum, Karur – March 2000 – Thiru K.Lakshminarayanan

4. "A Rare Coin of Pallava Kings"(Tamil) Museum Journal – 1998-99: Tmt.R.Shanthi

5. "The Role of Museums in the Preservation of Archaeological Finds"- proceedings of the Seminar on Tamilagam in the view of Archaeology, State Archaeology, Chennai, December 1999 – Dr.V.Jeyaraj

6. "The Motifs and Legends in the Coins of Arcot Nawabs" Abstracts of the Seminar organised by the Tamil Nadu Historical Congress at Vaniyambadi, December 1999- Dr.V.Jeyaraj

7. "Conservation of Tanjore Panel Paintings", Conservation of Cultural Property in India, New Delhi vol.XXX.1999 – Dr.V.Jeyaraj

8. Paintings of the Arcot Nawabs Conserved, Nunkalai, Tamil Nadu, March 2000 – Dr.V.Jeyaraj

9. Pamphlet on Restored Oil Paintings of the Madras Medical College, Chennai, February 2000 – Dr.V.Jeyaraj

10 Pamphlet on Government Museum, Ramanathapuram - March 2000 – Dr.V.Jeyaraj

11. "Pearl Fishery in the Coramandal Coast and the Role of Muslims" Souvenir of the Sixth International Islamic Tamil Literary Conference, Chennai, 1999 – Dr.J.Raja Mohammed.

12. The Recent Historical Findings in Pudukottai District – Tamil Murasu, Special Number, Pudukottai 1999 - Dr J. Raja Mohammed

13. "Erode Mavatta Varalarrinai Vilakkum Arungkatchiyagam ", - Malai Malar, 14 10.99 – J Mullai Arasu, Curator, Government Museum, Erode

14. "Government Museum – Krishnagiri" – Brochure released during Art Training, 12.3.2000 – Tmt.D Thulasi Brinda,Curator, Government Museum, Krishnagiri

15. "Krishnagiri Museum is a Mirror Reflection of History " – Dinabhoomi, 17.10.99 – Tmt. D.Thulasi Brinda,Curator, Government Museum, Krishnagiri

16. "A Rare form of Nandhikeswara – Monkey's Face' News to-day , 21.1.2000 and Dinakaran, 4.2 2000 – Thiru.C.Govindarajan, Curator, Government Museum, Udagamandalam

17. Pasupatamoorthy Sculptures in Pudukottai District – Dinakaran – 28.1.2000 - Thiru.C.Govindarajan, Curator, Government Museum, Udagamandalam

18. "Palm- leaf Manuscripts" – Pamphlet, 1999 – Thiru.A.Periasamy, Curator, , Government Museum , Pazhani.

19. Roman Coins in Tamil Nadu – proceedings of the Seminar on Coins of Tamil Nadu – Ms.S.Krishnammal

20. Two rare coins of Pallava – proceedings of the Seminar on Coins of Tamil Nadu-Ms.R.Santhi

Research Activities

1. Finger Printing of Bronze Icons in Collaboration with the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, Kalpakkam (Chemical Conservation and Archaeology, Chennai).
2. Holographying Bronze Icons in collaboration with the Centre for Laser Technology, Anna University, Chennai (Chemical Conservation and Archaeology, Chennai).
3. Monuments in Tamil Nadu, sponsored by the Nehru Trust for Indian Collections in the Victoria and Albert Museum, New Delhi (Dr.V.Jeyaraj).
4. Heritage Management (Dr.V Jeyaraj).
5. Conservation of Metals, Project for Ph.D. Research by a part time scholar under Dr.V.Jeyaraj.
6. Examination of Wall Paintings in the Avudaiar Temple, Thiruperundurai – Dr.V.Jeyaraj and Dr.J.Raja Mohammed.
7. Extensive Research is being continued on "Maritime history of the Minor ports in the Pudukottai Districts" and to locate the Medieval port of Saliyur – Dr.J.Raja Mohammed, Curator, Government Museum, Pudukkottai
8. Kanjikoil (Erode) 5 stone inscriptions – Thiru.J.Mullai Arasu, Curator, Government Museum, Erode – Pulavar S.Rasu (Erode)
9. Traditional Art Forms of Palamalai Hills Irula Tribes- Dr.C.Maheswaran, Curator, Government Museum, Coimbatore.
10. Nandhikeswara and Pasupathamoorthi Sculptures in Pudukottai District– Thiru C Govindarajan, Curator, Government Museum, Ooty.
11. Inscription of Pandyas at Perumkulam Village Tuticorin district – Tmt.S.Krishnammal, Curator, Government Museum, Tiruneveli.

Reports

The following reports were prepared by Dr.V.Jeyaraj, Curator, Chemical Conservation and Research Laboratory.

1. Restoration of paintings of the Madras Christian College, Chennai-59
2. Restoration of Southern Railway Map
3. Restoration of an oil painting of the Government Royapettah Hospital, Chennai
4. Report on the Reorganisation of the Museum of the College of Arts and Crafts, Chennai
5. Conservation of Paintings in the Government Museum, Chennai
6. Restoration of the Bronze statue of Dr C.Vijiaya Raghavachariar, Salem

Conservation Services

Six oil paintings belonging to the Narayana Guruvaiah Chetty Charities, Chennai, 11 oil paintings of the yester year medical experts of the Madras Medical College, 5 old photographs and one painting of the eye specialists from the Government Ophthalmic Hospital, Chennai, one wooden horse of Mrs.Dally Verghese and one life size bronze statue of Late Dr.C.Vijiayaraghavachariar at Salem were restored under the conservation services at nominal rates, by the Chemical Conservation and Research Laboratory.

Staff Changes

1. Thiru C. Govindarajan, Assistant Curator, Government Museum, Pudukottai was promoted as Curator, Government Museum, Udagamandalam on 1st December 1999.

2. Thiru T. Pakkirisamy, Curator for Government Museum, Udagamandalam was transferred to Government Museum, Sivaganga on 1.12 99. He was holding additional charge of the Government Museum, Ramanathapuram from 4.3.2000.

3. Thiru N. Sundararajan, Curator, Government Museum, Sivaganga was transferred to Government Museum, Cuddalore on 1st December 1999.

4. Thiru Raj Mohan, Curator, Government Museum, Tiruchirapalli was holding additional charge of the Government Museum, Karur from 15.3.2000

5. Smt.S.Suganthi, Assistant Director (Admn) of Museums, retired from service on 30th April 2000

6. Thiru C.Srinivasan, Assistant Curator, Zoology section of Government Museum, Chennai was promoted as Curator and posted to Government Museum, Tirunelveli on 23.4.2000

7. Smt.S.Krishnammal, Curator, Government Museum, Tirunelveli was transferred to Government Museum, Ramanathapuram on 13.5.2000

Tours Undertaken

In Government Museum, Chennai

Commissioner of Museums Dr.R.Kannan,I.A.S.,

27–09–1999 to 08–10–1999	To Calcutta and Delhi as Election Observer.
11–10–1999 to 14–10–1999	To Ernakulam for inspecting the Cultural Museum at Ernakulam along with the Hon'ble Minister for Tamil Official Language, Tamil Culture and Endowments, Dr.M.Tamizhkkudimagan.
11–11–1999	Inspected Trichirappalli Museum and attended Children's Day function at Pudukkottai Museum.
12–11–1999	Had discussions with the Collector, Karur and inspected the site selected by the Collector for the proposed Museum at Karur.
13–11–1999 and 14–11–1999	Inspected Pudukkottai Museum.
12–12–1999 to 14–12–1999	Inspected Madurai and Sivaganga Museums
29–12–1999 to 01-01-2000	Inspected Cuddalore Museum and visited Tranquebar Museum.

09–01–2000 to 12–01–2000	To inspect Pudukkottai District as Zonal Commissioner as per instructions of Chief Secretary
24–01–2000 to 27–01–2000	To inspect Pudukkottai District as Zonal Commissioner as per instructions of Chief Secretary
12–03–2000 to 14–03–2000	Discussed with the Collector of Coimbatore and Curator, Government Museum, Coimbatore regarding the new premises for the Government Museum., Coimbatore.
19–03–2000 to 21–03–2000	Inspected Kanyakumari and Tirunelveli Museums.
22–03–2000	Participated in the inaugural function of the new District Museum at Ramanathapuram
25–03–2000	Participated in the inaugural function of the new District Museum at Karur.
28–03–2000	Undertook tour to New Delhi to meet the Secretary, Department of Culture, Government of India in connection with funds for Museum Publications.

Education Section, Thiru. K. Lakshiminarayanan

11–10–1999 to 15–10–1999	To Ernakulam for inspecting the History Museum along with the Commissioner of Museums in connection with the proposed History Museum in Tamilnadu.
11–11–1999 to 15–11–1999	Inspection of suitable building for the proposed Government Museum, Karur.
19–03–2000 to 22–03–2000	Inaugural function work of Government Museum, Ramanathapuram.
24–03–2000 to 26–03–2000	Inaugural function work of Government Museum, Karur.
28–03–2000	Undertook tour to New Delhi accompanying the

to 30–03–2000	Commissioner of Museums, to meet the Secretary, Department of Culture, Government of India in connection with funds for Museum publications.

Zoology Section, Thiru. P. Jawahar

04–10–1999 to 05–10–1999	Inspection of Government Museum,Tirunelveli
19–11–1999 to 21–11–1999	Shifting of Government Museum, Coimbatore.
21–12–1999 to 22–12–1999	Inspection of Government Museum, Kanchipuram
22–03–2000	Inaugural work at Government Museum, Ramanathapuram.
26–03–2000	Inaugural work at Government Museum, Karur.

Contemporary Art Section, Thiru M. Mohan

18–03–2000 to 27–03–2000	Inaugural work at Government Museum, Ramanathapuram and Karur

Numismatics Section, Tmt. R. Santhi

20–03–2000 to 23–03–2000	Inaugural work at Government Museum, Ramanathapuram

Design and Display Section, Thiru J. R. Asokan

07–03–2000 to 15–03–2000	Establishment of district Government Museum at Ramanathapuram
16–03–2000 to 23–03–2000	Establishment of district Government Museum at Karur

Geology Section, Thiru D. Jawahar Prasad Raj

18–03–2000 to 27–03–2000 — Inaugural function work at Government Museum, Ramanathapuram and Karur.

Botany Section, Tmt M. N. Pushpa

25–03–2000 to 26–03–2000 — Inaugural function work at Government Museum, Karur.

Children's Museum, Thiru K.Sekar

24–03–2000 to 26–03–2000 — Inaugural function work at Government Museum, Karur.

In Districts

Madurai, Thiru. P. Sam Sathiaraj

1. Inspection of loose Sculpture at Kulamangalam Village.
2. Inspection of Four Treasure trove bronzes inspection at Samayanallur
3. Inspection of loose Sculpture and Inscription at Vaadipatti

Trichirappalli, Thiru P. Rajamohan

1. Inspectioo of loose Sculptures at Pettavaithalai
2. New District Museum setting up arrangements – Karur

Salem, Thiru P. Kasilingam

1. Inspection of Treasure-trove Sculptures at Namakkal
2. Attended the inaugural function of Government Museum at Karur.

Vellore, Thiru M. Gandhi

1. Acted as a Member of the National Screening and Evaluation Committee at New Delhi.
2. Attended the Expert committee on export of Non-Antiquities meeting at Archaeological Survey of India, Chennai Circle.
3. Inaugural work at Government Museum, Karur.

Coimbtore, Dr. C. Maheswaran

1. "Rock Art Shelter" Study at Vellerikkombai.
2. Attended the inaugural function of Government Museum at Karur.

Cuddalore, Thiru N. Soundararaja

1. Attended the inaugural works of Government Museum at Karur.

Tirunelveli, Tmt. S. Krishnammal

1. Inspection of House grain pot at Chandragiri Village.
2. Inspection of Buddha stone sculpture at Venkalapotal village.
3.

Kanyakumari, Thiru N. Soundarapandian

1. Study of stone sculpture and Mandapams of Adikesava perumal Temple at Thiruvottar.
2. Inspection of Gold treasure trove at Kulithalai.
3. Inspection of Paleolithic and Neolithic materials at Nagercoil.
4. Study of Pulithevan's Copper Plate at Nagercoil.

Thiruvarur, Thiru G. Karunanithi

1. Inspection of an Old Fort at Mahadevanpattinam.
2. Study of "Yamunabai Choultry" of Raja Pradap Singh 1761 at Needamangalam.
3. Attended the inaugural function of Govt.Museum at Karur.

Nagapattinam, Thiru K. Saravanan

1. Inspection of Treasure – trove objects of Prathaparamapuram Village at Kilvelur.
2. "Off-shored Blue Whale fish –32 feet – inspection and burial arrangements to preserve its skeleton – Therkkupoigainallur village
3. Inspection of Koneri Rajapuram Treasure- trove objects at Mayiladuthurai.
4. Inspection of Kodaivilagam treasure- trove objects along with Commissioner of Museums on 31.12.99 at Tranquebar.
5. Inspection of Mamakkudi Treasure -trove objects at Tranquebar.

ARTICLES

MUSEUM MANAGEMENT

Dr.R. Kannan, IAS
Commissioner of Museums,

This paper attempts to look at what a Museum is and its evolution. It analyses the different types of Museums in the world and in India. It goes into the nitty-gritty of the management of a museum. In doing so it describes how the application of the general principles of management to an organisation that differs from a business organisation is a fine art. The Government Museum, Chennai and the district museums in Tamilnadu form the scenario where the experience is documented and lessons in the art of management distilled.

INTRODUCTION

The principles of management are common to all forms of management wherever human beings are at work. Application of these principles to different forms of organisation and situations is an art (Koontz H.et.al, 1990,pp.6-10).

Museums are of various types. They can be classified according to the type of collection- e.g. Art Museum, Science Museum etc. Another classification is according to the area served. Some cater to an international population like the British Museum, some to national, regional and so on. The display and publicity will vary according to the type of population catered to.

From the point of view of management it is the form of organisation that is more important. Museums organised as autonomous societies like the Asiatic Society or British Museum provides maximum managerial flexibility. They also make for long term perspective planning. A government department or local body with rigid rules calls for a totally different approach to management.

In this essay, we shall see the different types of Museums and the forms of organisation with their relative pros and cons. However, we shall examine our recent experience of managing the Government Museum, Chennai as a case study and also as detailed documentation for future

reference with its history used where necessary to understand the present better.

What is a Museum?

Dr. Samuel Johnson's Dictionary (1755) defines a Museum as – "a Repository of learned curiosities". Casper F. Neickel of Hamburg in his Museuographia (1727) has defined it as "a chamber of treasures, rarities, objects of nature, of art and reason". The declaration made in the Copenhagen 10th General Conference of the International Council of Museums is fairly comprehensive. A museum "is a non-profit making permanent institution, in the service of Society and its development and open to the public for the purpose of study, education and enjoyment, material evidence of man and his environment". I define a Museum as a Service provider for the spread of Knowledge

FOUR STAGES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF MUSEUM CONCEPT:

I STAGE

During the Renaissance period, Museum objects were:

1. Natural and cultural materials collected as private trophies by the Lords and Kings
2. Curiosities and booty of the wealthy.
3. Collections of the churches more for veneration than for study.

II STAGE

The collections of objects were made with a plan for research or according to a certain set of ideas. (Post renaissance period)

III STAGE (in the First half of 19th Century)

A system of scientific classification and interpretation of objects was introduced.

IV STAGE (in early 20th Century)

Museums attained the status of an institution, which express and authenticate established values and images of Society. Their focus changed from Object

Orientation to People Orientation A parallel in business management is from Selling to marketing (Kotler P, 1995, p.13).

CLASSIFICATION OF MUSEUMS

On the basis of

- **Their collection**

    1. Art Museum -- Bharat Bhavan, Bhopal, M P
    2. Archaeology and History Museum- National Museum, For Museum(Chennai)
    3. Anthropology Museum-Anthropological Survey of India, Mysore, Museum of Man, Bhopal, Tribal Museum, Bhopal
    4. Natural History Museum-London
    5. Technological Museum or Science Centre-Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museum, Bangalore; Birla Museum, Calcutta
    6. Multipurpose Museum – Government Museum, Chennai

- **On the basis of population catered to and managing authority (under special statute etc)**

1. **National Museum** (Government)

    National Museum, New Delhi is the foremost example of this type This functions as a department of government.

2. **Regional Museums** (Departments of the State governments)

    - *State Museum* –Government Museum, Chennai
    - *District Museum* – 18 District Museums of Museum Department
    - *City Museums* – managed by Corporation or Municipality
    - *Temple Museum:*
        - Madurai Meenakshi Amman Temple Museum
        - Sri Rangam Temple Museum
        - Tirupati Temple Museum

These museums function as a department of the government and are bound by government rules and procedures. While this frees them from the problem of having to raise resources, they also limit their freedom of action by government rules, procedures and audit.

3. **Departmental Museums:**
Archaeological Survey of India – Site museums

1. Museums of Archaeological Survey of India (Mysore)
2. Museum of Geological Survey of India Museum (Lucknow)

These are organised just like the museums under the State Government. However, being under the Union Government they have access to larger budgetary resources. However, in terms of innovation, State Government museums are better placed since decisions are taken quicker. This is due to ease of local access.

4. **Autonomous Societies** (National level Museums)

Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad; Indian Museum, Calcutta; British Museum, London etc. are managed by autonomous societies. This gives the Director of the Museum great freedom of action, continuity of personnel, facility of perspective planning and great freedom to raise and spend resources. This helps in disseminating the message of the museums through special exhibitions, seminars, publications, pamphlets etc.

5. **Museums of educational institutions:**

1. University Museum
2. College Museum
3. School Museum

These display the artefacts related to their institutions. Some of them like the Museum in the Government Ophthalmic Hospital, Chennai have rare and priceless collection related to their respective fields.

6. Museums of Voluntary Private Organisations:

1. Raja Dinkar Kelkar Museum, Pune
2. Dakshina Chitra, Muttukadu, Chennai

These museums when run well are a pleasure to visit and run very innovative programmes with special lectures, demonstrations etc.

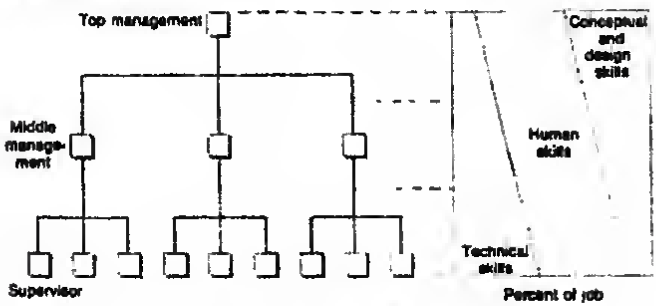
Tamil Nadu like Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh has a separate Department of Museums, which functions under the State government. A senior I.A.S. officer heads it. This shows the importance, which the State attaches to this department, though it means sparing the services of an I.A.S. officer.

APPLICATION OF THE PRINCIPLES OF MANAGEMENT TO MUSEUM MANAGEMENT

The principles of Management were formulated in the *'Arthasastra'* of Kautilya, Roman Catholic Church and the Army, which remain the oldest forms of organisation. These principles have now been applied in hospitals and are equally applicable in a Museum. A Director of a Museum is like the Chief Executive of a business organisation. It is not necessary for him to know the nitty-gritty of each discipline in which the Museum deals with E.g. Art, zoology, anthropology, botany etc. But he must know enough to be able to ask informed and intelligent questions from the Curators who are in charge of managing the different disciplines like Art, Archaeology etc. This is more important in a multi-disciplinary museum like the Government Museum, Chennai. Even the Directors who have risen from the rank of Curator, though they had a proclivity to concentrate on their own disciplines a little more have had to also look after other sections in which they were not technical experts.

Katz (1974, pp.101-102) has identified the skill needed for a good manager. They are to have technical skill i.e. knowledge of the subject, Human skill i.e. the ability to carry people along, Conceptual skill i.e. the ability to see the 'Big Picture' and most important Design skill to design solutions to problems. The diagram below shows the varying importance of these skills at different levels. At the top it is Design skill that matters while at the bottom it is technical skill.

Management general involves the process of Planning, Organising, Staffing, Leading and Controlling. We shall consider how much of these standard theories can be applied using the Chennai and district museums as a case study In the case of Chennai Museum, some of these factors are given and it is not easy to change them. Some of the key activities in Planning like setting objectives, Considering planning premises, Identifying alternatives and Choosing an alternative can be done to a limited extent within the overall policy set by the State. It is always possible to identify thrust areas of special interest and plan



Skills vary in importance at different management levels.

SKILLS AND MANAGEMENT LEVELS.

a) Marketing

Marketing is the basic prerequisite if an organisation is to exist, survive and grow. A Museum also requires marketing. The visitors are the customers. Segmentation of the market according to category of visitors and tailoring plans and strategies to suit the different segments if the museum is to succeed. A government museum cannot deny access to any class of visitors. We noticed that the pilgrims in buses used the Museum gardens for cooking etc., and incidentally some of them used to visit the Museum. The damage they caused was considerable. Raising the entrance fee is not possible as this would lead to allegations of Elitism, which a public museum cannot afford We therefore segmented our market into foreign tourists affluent and the back pack variety, affluent and middle class domestic tourists usually coming in

taxis or tourist buses, the poorer people who come in excursions from rural areas, couples, lovers and students who visit from schools and colleges in groups. A small number are serious scholars. We have found that the non-affluent urban people are the ones who cause maximum damage by graffiti. All classes of Indian tourists are equally guilty of littering and causing traffic chaos. Planning has been geared mainly to attract more of the sections of visitors who want to use the museum as a place to learn or at the least do not damage the environment.

The Museum also owns an air-conditioned theatre, which is more than 100 years old and constructed on the model of the theatres of London. It is rented out only to programmes that cater to elitist tastes like classical western music, pantomime by the British Council etc

b) Projects

Projectisation has been done in the case of opening new district museums. A chart using Critical Path Method has been prepared identifying bottleneck activities like purchase procedures, which take a long time in government. Identification of activities and forming personnel into teams for completing the activities within a pre-set timetable has been done. We hope to organise and open the district museums with in a record time of 45 days using this approach.

c) Organisation structure

The formal organisation is a given in a government set up. Museum staff structure has four layers i.e.

1. Museologists – concept builders i.e. Curators *(Core)*
2. Museographers – technocrats who help to convert concepts in to concrete forms i.e. dioramas, picture panels, pedestals and like *(Core)*
3. Helpers – establishment staff *(Non-Core)*
4. Service staff – Labour workers, gardeners, lifters, cleaners and guards *(Non-Core)*

The Government Museum, Chennai is organised into sections based on subjects like Art, Archaeology, Chemical Conservation, Anthropology,

Botany Zoology, Geology etc. A Curator who is a subject specialist heads each section. The Line Curators i.e. those in charge of a subject or a district museum are assisted by the staff Curators – Chemical Conservation and Design and Display Curators. In the case of district museums, a Curator is in overall charge of the museum. The Curator is the kingpin around whom the whole system revolves. There are office staff headed by an Assistant Director who report directly to the Commissioner of Museums who is the Head of the Museums department i.e. the boss of all the museums under the department. The organisational structure has evolved over the past 150 years. There has been no systematic management study, but it serves the purpose remarkably well. This is mainly because informally some individuals who are identified as more productive are given more tasks. The joke in government is 'Work to the worker and salary to everyone'.

d) Decentralisation is limited by the structure of government department rules and also the capacity of individuals. Hence the type of total decentralisation often seen in multi plant business is absent. However, the Curators in the district due to geographical distance are pretty much the bosses regarding day to day activities. In fact, due to certain financial problems supervision is mostly by way of controlling spending.

e) Leadership has to be very difficult in a milieu where the system of rewards and punishment are not like in the private sector. Seniority plays the major role in promotion and job and salary security is assured. Motivating people is by personal example and use of Hygienics theory of removing the discontent due to avoidable inconvenience. Positive motivation like Self-motivation is there in rare individuals. Mostly Napoleonic harangues backed by personal example and a judicious mix of praise and criticism does the trick. There is also public recognition of good service sometimes.

In view of the difficulties in supervising and motivating staff who perform routine activities like Janitorial services, it is proposed to follow the *Next Steps Approach* of the British government of contracting out *Non-Core* activities, so that *Core* activities can be concentrated upon. It is also easier to motivate the Core Professionals for whom Maslow's *Self – Actualisation* (maximise one's potential) is the ultimate motivation (Koontz H,1990,p.302).

f) Communication is very important in an organisation. The American method of communicating informally with the lowest level does not work in an atmosphere where Unions are strong and frequent exposure leads to loss of the aura of the boss as the Carrot and Stick can be used to a limited extent only. Hence, communication is through Circulars put up on the Notice Board of matters of interest to the staff while the British system of conveying views through the second level officers operates best. Control is mainly through verbal communication through a judicious mix of praise and criticism impersonalised to the extent possihle as seen above. The traditional expenditure control and rules and procedures are pretty tight

g) Information technology like use of Computers, Fax and E-mail with Internet facility has been introduced this year (1999) marking a quantum leap in technology.

h) Training to staff by participating in formal courses like Museum Management, participation seminars like the International Seminar on Heritage Management organised by IIT, Chennai and on the joh training to operate computers imparted by the Commissioner himself are some of the methods used to upgrade skill levels

We shall now take up the management of the individual types of activity involved in a multi- disciplinary museum with illustrations from Museums through out the world

HYGIENICS

We applied the Herzberg concept of Hygienics to the Museum premises. We felt that a clean premises and garden was the starting point if the public is to enjoy a museum Mostly the traffic in a museum is tourist traffic. Serious scholars form only a small percentage

a) Janitorial Services

Government servants do cleaning of the premises, gardens and galleries. The work ethos is such that in all fairness to them they do clean and sweep the galleries and garden. However, pilgrims were using the garden for cooking and washing clothes This acted as a demotivation for the janitorial staff. This practice was slowly put an end to. The stress was on attracting the

right kind of visitor. Duty Curators and the Commissioner made frequent trips to check the cleanliness. With a little help from the Public Works Department new plants were planted. The Lions Club helped to a small extent. Sustained enthusiasm was a problem for them as they had their own jobs to look after. Littering was made an offence. Signboards announcing a fine of Rs.10/- were put up. After initial resistance from the public they had a certain salutary effect. Parking of vehicles in certain is being insisted with a certain degree of success. More dustbins were provided. The Teashop owners refused to put up bins. They were made to comply after a struggle. The momentum of change was deliberately kept gradual as in a democracy too fast actico is threatening to people and is counter productive. All this made has made the environment reasonably clean. Considering that 5 lakhs from various States visit every year and very few are repeat visitors who know the rules, this success is considerable.

Sufficient number of toilets etc have to provided and they must be kept clean. In Chennai we have sent a proposal for Toilets to be made Pay & Use with segmentation as Luxury toilets for foreign and affluent tourist and inexpensive ones for the common tourist. We feel an NGO specialised in such activity will manage better than departmental or contractors. In our country the toilet habits, littering of the public creates a big problem in maintaining high standards of cleanliness. Gardening is another important activity, which also involves water management as we have found out during the recent drought. However, attention to detail and some planning by personal involvement of the Commissioner has made it possible to use the old well and link it to a series of underground sumps and Overhead tanks by using the existing pipeline and pumps. Minor linkages at a small cost of less than Rs.5000/- has saved at least Rs.30000/- per month in terms of water cost.

b) Landscaping of the premises is another specialised activity, which can be given to corporate sponsors once the water is available. However, in the current belt tightening by industry there are not many takers, though a Service Club has taken up the area in front of the Contemporary Art Gallery.

Vacuum cleaners have been procured and weekly thorough cleaning of objects and galleries in addition to daily cleaning is being done.

c) Facilitation

A Souvenir Shop and restaurant are being planned.

d) Display of Objects

Objects housed in a place with a guard do not make a Museum. At best we may call the place a storehouse. The arrangement of objects in the Museum Gallery should display the fusion of Art and Science.
In Government Museum, Cbennai some of the displays like the Archaeology Section are 70 years old Concepts like using moveable displays have not been put into practice. Problems in Collection of Specimens are found in the Natural History Section especially in Zoology due to ban on hunting. In the olden days, the Taxidermy Section had no problem. Lack of linkage with the Forest Department is felt. This is a symptom of departmentalism and lack of holistic approach so common in these days of Specialisation. In the Art Section, Paintings are bought. But most of our collection is by statute by virtue of the Treasure Trove Act. Sculptures, coins and ancient jewellery are got by this means.

DISSEMINATION OF KNOWLEDGE TO DIFFERENT SEGMENTS

A museum serves as a place for spread of practical knowledge by affording objects for study and investigation. Information is given through Labels about objects displayed A well planned, complete and thoroughly labelled display enables people to learn about the objects Recording – the names and identification of the objects is important for future comparative and critical studies We have started using plastic labels to replace the missing labels. We have also put in a general description of a gallery to make it informative. E.g. In the Bronze Gallery, the method of casting used, the period, the rulers and the uniqueness of eacb piece are all displayed Further, for each gallery brochures listing all the objects have been prepared for the serious indeed scholars.

a) Special Exhibitions

We have held special exhibitions on restoration of paintings of the Madras Medical College, Chennai, whicb has given a boost to heritage conservation and knowledge about such methods A Coins Exhibition evoked great interest with visitors from all parts of the country. We lend some of our objects to colleges and schools for special exhibitions.

We plan to create a permanent Holographic Gallery in collaboration with Anna University, using Hi-Tech Lasers, which is a first in India.

b) Lectures, Seminars and Field Visits

Lectures like the recently revived Popular Lecture series are popular among scholars and scholarly public. They cover topics like Museology like the present one, History, Science etc.

Speakers are both from the museum and outside. Endowment Lectures like the one on "New Archaeological Finds in Mahabalipuram" by Mr. K. T. Narasimhan, Superintending Archaeologist, ASI, Chennai stimulate fresh thinking. We have run seminars on Coins, Chemical Conservation etc., which had attendance from experts. They have served to stimulate fresh thinking.

c) Short Courses and Consultancy

Short courses on Care of Museum of Objects in Chemical Conservation, Geology, Art History etc., have been conducted in collaboration with the School of Oriental and African Studies, London and a Chamber of Commerce. These courses have a field visit at the end to extend the knowledge gained from the classroom to the field. We conduct competitions like Painting, Elocution, Essay Writing etc for school and college students as part of our extension activity.

We provide Consultancy Services on actual cost basis to several organisations. Consultancy Services include Museum design to a University, the Government Ophthalmic Hospital, the Railways, Madras Medical College etc. are

We collaborate with high tech institutions like the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, Kalpakkam to fingerprint icons to prevent theft of art

Heritage building preservation is an area in which a multi disciplinary approach in collaboration with Archaeological Survey of India, IIT and foreign experts etc has yielded a team spirit and good results. The Museum acts as a Co-ordinator cum specialist.

d) Publications

As seen above, the Museum serves to spread knowledge by its detailed guide. It also publishes a Journal detailing all the activities every 6 months. Bulletins and Monographs provide fresh findings or new theories. We are now available for contact through Fax or E-mail.

A Virtual Museum with a Web site is planned for next year (2000).

a) Publicity

Print media have helped a great deal by specialised coverage of the activities. This has stimulated interest in our target population. A National TV channel has carried a documentary on our activities and the exhibits in our galleries to the whole country

FINANCE

'Money makes the mare to move'. Revenue is earned by entry fee, museum theatre rent and sale of publications, but remitted into government account. The government supports us. But there is a limit to what a government can do. We have a society called Friends of the Museum but it is not active. The community should step in to conserve their priceless heritage. There are proposals to consider giving a part of the gate collections as an imprest fund for the museum. We have also mooted a revolving fund for publications to be replenished from the sale proceeds of the books published.

CONCLUSION

Management of a multi-disciplinary museum must reflect a balanced involvement of all the sections. Concentration on any one particular section will lead to unbalanced development. Personnel of the non-priority sections will be disaffected. 'Co-ordination is the essence of management' feel Koontz et.al. (1990,p.24). A spirit of unity of purpose has been tried to be brought in not only among the Curators, but also between staff of all grades and curators. Co-ordination with other agencies in the field like the Archaeological Survey of India, the media, the educational institutions, voluntary agencies etc., have brought about a synergy that has projected the

Government Museum, Chennai and its activities in a favourable light that public institutions rarely see these days.

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MUSEUM-A BRIDGE BETWEEN OLD CITIES AND NEW CULTURES

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Introduction

Tamil Nadu is the cradle of civilisation of the world. It is rich in artistic and cultural heritage. Its maritime tradition has drawn traders and foreign visitors. The foreign visitors who paid visits have written extensively about it. It has many old towns and cities like Chennai, Madurai, Tanjore, Kanchipuram, Mamallapuram etc. Foreign tourists serve as cultural ambassadors. They also bring in valuable foreign exchange and earnings.

Museums largely attract tourists as visitors. A minuscule percentage are however serious scholars who use the practical knowledge available there like sculptures, specimens etc. 'One touch of the Vernal wood can teach you more of more than all the sages can' said Wordsworth. Special exhibitions on some themes like "Tipu Sultan" are held to attract visitors.

Tourist Traffic in Tamil Nadu

So far, cultural tourism had a major role in Tamil Nadu. Now the various contributing agents are museums and galleries, monuments (temples, churches, and mosques), memorials, boathouses, sanctuaries, parks, planetariums, aquariums, amusement parks etc

The Museum Buildings

The Madras Government thought of opening a museum at the instance of the court of Directors of the East India Company. It was only when Surgeon Edward Balfour, who was also the President of the Madras Literary Society at that time offered his services to Government to be an honorary Officer-in-charge of the Museum to be set up, and the Court of Directors in their Minutes of Consultations dated January 29, 1851 accepted his offer, the idea of the Central Museum at Madras fructified. It was started in Fort St.George College, the present Directorate of School Education building in College Road, Nungambakkam.

It moved to the Pantheon in Egmore in December 1854. The Pantheon itself was a historical structure. It was also known as the Public Room or Assembly rooms and it was the centre of amusement in the days of the Company, being "utilised for dinners, balls and dramatic performances by the European Colony of Madras from the last decade of the 18th Century" when it was probably built. The Pantheon continued to be a centre of entertainment until Government acquired it and formed it into the Cutcherry of the Collectorate.

The Museum Theatre is of a unique design—it is semi-circular in shape and its red brick walls breathe beauty into the structure. Inside the ceiling is very high and is covered with zinc sheets for the sake of improving acoustics. They made for a pattern of singular charm. The Theatre is stated to be modelled on a London theatre. It has perfect acoustics, and Western groups of music or dance or drama perform without the assistance of a mike inside the Theatre.

Museum Theatre, Government Museum, Chennai

The Front Building and houses the Anthropological Galleries, (Prehistory and Ethnology) the Arms Gallery, the Metalware Gallery, and the Folk Art Gallery. It is characterised by an imposing staircase of wide steps leading from either side to the first floor. The ceiling of this building is also decorated with plaster designs and there are also stained glass openings on high but to a much less extent than in the Connemara Library building. Museums in districts like the one in Vellore inside the Fort, the Tirunelveli museum which is located in the historic building where Kattabomman's brother was tried are examples of other museums located in historic buildings recalling the past

The National Art Gallery building was originally called as the Victoria Memorial Hall in 1906. The first Prime Minister of India dedicated it

to Indian nation in 1951 as National Art Gallery. It is a red sand stone cladded building with Indo-Saracenic style.

Activities in a Museum

The concept of entertainment is important for museums. Various activities, which a museum can think of, differ from museum to museum. But, the main activities are: exhibitions, practical demonstrations, lectures, publications, interaction between museums and tour operators, audio and video cassettes, souvenir shops, conferences etc. Through these activities, museums serve as a bridge between the past, present and future.

1.Exhibitions

Museums can be of a specialised type or multi – disciplinary. A multi disciplinary Museum collects materials of the past. It gives a panoramic view of the art, culture, industry, flora and fauna, mineral wealth, science etc., of its own region as well as of the world. It preserves them for posterity.

Museums conduct programmes of educational value to students and tourists. A visitor, who doesn't have enough time to see the important places in a country can visit Museums and learn about the people and their environment both in the present and the past. Museums can organise temporary exhibitions, which portray the customs and culture of the region coinciding with festivals etc., Chennai Museum tries to do such an exercise by its special thematic exhibitions from time. The Bronze and Amaravati collections of the Chennai Museum have an international reputation and they attract tourists from all over the globe.

Action is also being taken to create a Virtual Museum on Internet. This will attract more tourists to the Museums in Tamil Nadu

2.Practical Demonstration

Practical demonstration of knowledge is the most effective tool for dissemination of knowledge. An expert in the field demonstrates how items displayed in the Museums were used etc., Cholamandal Artists Village, Dakshina Chitra etc., attracts tourists to the artists in action there Museums sometimes conduct programmes related to them during the festivals.

Demonstration of traditional crafts is conducted in the museums to attract tourists.

3.Lectures

Popular Lectures on topics ranging from 'The nutritional value of drinking cocoa' by Dr Bidie in 1873 to 'Revised dating in Indian History using a bolistic approacb' by this writer, radically disproving the traditional dates and theories, are held in the Cbennai Museum every month. Besides these, there are Endowment lectures by eminent scholars These serve to stimulate research and strive to bring Chennai Museum in to the forefront of new knowledge.

Training programmes and Seminars in Conservation, Geology, Art History about subjects like Preservation of Temple Antiquities attract local scholars and practitioners with the respective fields. This approach is in sharp contrast to the traditional learning by memory approach of Indian education.

4.Publication

Publication is one of the important tools to increase the number of visitors to a Museum. They attract foreign and Indian visitors to Museums. Posters, handbills, newsletters, magazines, scholarly publications advertise about the Museums to those who are interested to see other countries
Handouts about the museums in Tamil Nadu have been prepared. Action is under process to have a website displaying relevant information about the museums in Tamil Nadu. 'To day's engagements' column in the local dailies displays information on lectures, demonstrations, special exhibition etc., held at the museums. Tourists, who come in groups, are given concession in Chennai Museum.

6.Audio and Video Cassettes

The department of museums has got plans to prepare some audio and Video cassettes on some special subjects in the museum and make them available to the tourist operators as well as the tourists at a charge. The tourist operators can screen them to the tourists while they are being taken to the sites. The tourists may also purchase them and take them home whicb will be of interest to those who have not visited the museums in Tamil Nadu.

This will make them do so in the future. However, attracting and making Indian tourists pay remains a problem.

7.Souvenir Shop

Souvenir shops not only attract tourists, but also bring in revenue to the museums. Museums in the European countries attract many tourists to the Museums shops. Chennai Museum has proposed such a shop in its long term Perspective Plan

8.Conferences

International conferences are conducted in museums and other organisations. These international conferences bring many tourists as participants. Such conferences organise pre and post conference tours, sightseeing tours etc., There was a conference on Heritage Conservation by IIT, Chennai in 1999.

9.Publicity

Publicity about the museums in Tamil Nadu is poor. Most of the people do not know what a museum is, and where is it located.

10.Government Policy

The Government can preserve green lung spaces like the Museum campus undisturbed. It can also encourage and fund conservation of Heritage buildings. The Government Museum, Chennai lends its expertise in conservation and preservation of buildings, objects and management of museums.

Conclusion

The general public, at not a very high level of affluence, considers museum as an elitist activity. The standard of civic consciousness is very poor. Coupled with limited resources our museums are unable to compete with their foreign counterpart. With proper management, funding and public awareness, our rich culture and hoary past, which results in a large number of exhibits, can be a great source of strength in bringing our past alive.

THE CLASSICAL ART OF A CONTEMPORARY INDIAN ARTIST

M. Mohan,
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It is interesting to note that simultaneous with the vital role played by contemporary artists from Tamilnadu, in respect of Contemporary Indian Art movement in Post Independence era, Tamilnadu had witnessed talented artists right from the beginning of this Century. After Independence there was a spurt in quality and quantity of contemporary art.

The Government College of Arts and Crafts, Chennai has produced many outstanding modern artists. They are closely associated with Chennai Museum in respect of modern art development. Among the eminent artists, P.L.Narasimhamurti is one who is well known for his classic art. His wife, Tmt. P.Vijayalakshmi is accompanying him in his art career.

P.L. Narasimhamurti was born in 1918 in Andhra Pradesh. His active interest in art is dated from his boyhood. His knowledge of Sanskrit Literature had given a fillip to his art career. At the age of 13 (1936) he joined the Rama Rao Art Society, Andhra Pradesh which he left after three years to join Diploma in Fine Arts in the School of Arts and Crafts, Chennai in 1939. He became a freelance artist to carryout his art work. P.L.Narasimhamurti's paintings, namely Vidhura's Reception, Janaki under Asoka Tree are on display in the Contemporary Art Gallery of the Government Museum, Chennai.

1. VIDHURA'S RECEPTION
Size: 62 x 111 cms.
Water colour on wooden plank
Painted in 1951.

2. JANAKI UNDER ASOKA TREE
Size: 62 x 83 cms.
Oil on Canvas
Painted in 1994.

His wife Tmt.P.Vijayalakshmi's painting, Yasoda and child Krishna is also on display in the Contemporary Art Gallery of the Government Museum, Chennai.

P. VIJAYALAKSHMI
YASODA AND KRISHNA
Size: 45 x 62 cms.
Oil on Canvas
Painted in 1994.

P L.Narasimhamurti and his spouse are experts not only in easel work but also in murals. They had painted about 600 Ramayana paintings and put up exhibitions in many places. Their classical paintings can be seen in the major art galleries in the cities of our country namely, Trivandrum, Chennai, Varanasi and Baroda. He was commissioned on behalf of Tamil Nadu Government to copy the murals of Chidambaram, Tiruvarur, Srirangam, Kanchipuram for the Chennai Museum. One of his works is the large painting of Lord Rama's Coronation done for the Parliament House, New Delhi. He is one of the members of the Art Purchase Committee of the Government Museum, Chennai and the National Art Gallery

Janaki Under Asoka Tree
Artist: P. L. Narasimhamurti

A RARE SADASIVA SCULPTURE

R.Balasubramanian,
Curator, Archaeology Sectioo

Art in India was never dissociated from another aspects of life from other disciplines This is very much evident from the literary and archaeological evidences throughout the history of India. Sculpture manifests the vision of wholeness through a methodology of impersonation. Indian figurative art is not portraiture of the specific. Each image is an embodiment of a dominant abstracted impersonalised state of mood in a given stance or pose evoking stilloess and dynamic movement together. Each is a complete world in itself. The spirit and soul of the cosmic infinite is contained io the body of the particular but impersonalised form.

Stooe first became the important medium of Indian Sculpture during the reign of Emperor Asoka (273-232 BC). Over the following centuries regional dynasties throughout India used many varieties of rocks to create sculptures of great quality and technical expertise

Tamilnadu is the name of a lyrical landscape, which stretches from lower Andhrapradesh to the tip of Kanyakumari. Here, as elsewhere the underlying basis of scooping rocks, or carving relief sculptures, was that every stone , boulder or rock had cosmic vitalities running through it was so much uncarved sculpture.

These sculptures are the most permanent arts, frozen at a moment of time for posterity. They are shaped and formed in the art of creation, live for the moment, the specific duration. Each part of the relief or each micro-unit of the human figure plays its role –the eyes, nose, ears, face, torso and limbs and each physical gesture singly and in combination is suggestive of an inner meaning which in its totality suggests an impersonal emotion and thus evoked a transcendental heightened experience

The Hindu images are not only to be admired as works of art – but to be read, so as to say as a literary text. When we read these sculptures io an esoteric way one may understand the image in its full significance, in its spiritual tatva. The image then turns into a kind of a book, written in those

apparently strange symbols or aspects, many arms, many heads, many legs and so on.

The study of Lord Siva in His various forms is more fascinating He is the God of gods (devadeva,Mahadeva), the enlighter of the Universe (Jagat-Guru), Lord of the animals (Pasupati) and also Lord of dances (Nataraja).

Sri Sankaracharya says, "I glorify the five faced Lord Siva, the ever blissful Ruler of gods, the all pervading protector of the Universe, the reliever of the distress of gods, who has ashes for the ornament of his body, has an odd number ofeyes, nay, who has the moon, the Sun and fire for His three eye".

The five faces of the God carved suggest the five fold aspects of Siva composing the Sadasiva form. They represent Tatpurusha, Aghora, Vamadeva, Sadyojata and Isana are collectively known as Panca-Brahmas They are regarded to be the emanations from the nishkala Siva (The formless, unmanifested Para-Brahma). (Rao, T.A.G. , Elements of Hindu Iconography, II, p 371.) The Saivites regard these heads as symbolising the soul, material world, buddhi, ahamkara and the mind. (Agarvala, V.S., Siva Mahadeva, p.18-20).

One of the earliest Sadasiva sculpture datable to the Pallava- Chola transitional period, the 9th Century AD is known from Kaverippakkam in the North Arcot district of Tamilnadu.Ht.153 cm; br.99 cm. Most of the arms of this deity are unfortunately mutilated and in the surviving right hands he holds a kettle drum (damaru), a sword and one was probably in abhaya pose, and in the left hands he holds a shield and a snake. He wears a kanthi (necklet) and a hara. The sacred thread is ribbon like with a broad fastening over the left breast *Udhara* bandana present. He is seen seated in the Utkutikasana. Padasaras present in the legs. Bringipada present in the shin region. Makara kundalas adorn the ears.

This Sadasiva was retrieved by the CB-CID (Idol-Wing) and was handed over to the Museum Department in 1998, which is a treasure to the department, as we don't have one in our collections so far. (See the colour plate)

FOSSILS

D. Jawahar Prasad Raj,
Curator, Geology Sectioo

On the other day, a batch of students from oearby school were standiog near the fossil wood, exhibited in the open air garden near the Pantheon building of the Government Museum, Cbennai and they were amazed on seeing the tree trunk's colour, while others were curious to know how the original green trunk of a tree after many millioo years had turned into a brownish golden tint coloured mass with the hardness that of a stone. Actually it is no doubt a wood but geologically it is a wood turned into a stone like object called fossil wood.

Paleontology is one of the important branches of geology, dealing with the study of ancient animals and plants such as fossils. Fossils are the recognisable remains of animals and plants, which lived in the past geological ages and preserved in the rocks of the earth crust by natural process. It may comprise of the remains of complete animal but that is very rare. Such fossils include insects preserved in amber and mammoth and other mammals frozen in ice. But, such fossils are of rare occurrence and are of the recent origins.

We know that millioos of animals and plants had lived, died and were destroyed without leaving a trace. But, it has been observed that the following factors are most important for the preservation of organisms as fossils. They are

- the possession of hard parts such as shells, bones and skeletons.
- Quick burials of the remains by different process to prevent destruction by scavenger and decay.

Any animal and plant satisfyiog the above conditions can be preserved as fossil under oormal condition.

The study of fossils constitutes an integral part of any investigation leading to the discovery of new deposits of coal and petroleum. It helps io establishing the geological age of the rock beds and their correct order of succession in any area. It is also used for correlating rock beds of one area with those of the other. Above all, the study of fossils is of highest importance to the biologist because they include the ancestors of modern

species and among fossil forms we find many groups which are altogether extinct and which often throws light on the relationship of existing animals and plants

The collection of fossil specimens in the Geology Gallery of the Government Museum, Cbennai are arranged according to the different periods to which they belong. It begins with a

colourful chart of the geological time scale in which the various geological periods, their duration and the important animals and plants which lived during those period are explained. The fossil collections are mainly composed of

- Vertebrate fossils
- Invertebrate fossils
- Plant fossils and
- Fossil wood.

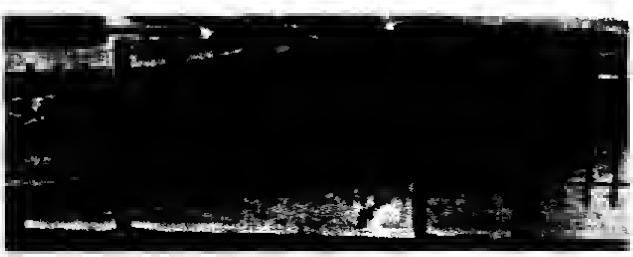
Among the exhibits in this gallery the most interesting to mention a few are the plaster model of the prehistoric animal-Brontosaurus, the gigantic ammonite fossil from Ariyalur, and the fossil elephant skull from Rameswaram. During the Mesozoic Era, - in Triassic, Jurassic and cretaceous periods giant reptiles known as Dinosaurs dominated the earth and became extinct at the close of that era. The Brontosaurus is an extinct reptile, which lived about 150 million years ago, during the 'Jurassic' period.

The fossil wood was discovered by Geological Survey of India in Sattanur near Ariyalur and in Tiruvakkarai. A huge fossil wood displayed in the open air garden of this Museum was collected by the Geological Survey of India and donated to this Museum. Among the plant fossils, the Gondwana specimens and the specimens from Britain are of interest. The fossil specimens of the Geology Gallery was mainly collected from Ariyalur, a village about 70 kms from Trichirappalli and its specimens belong to cretaceous period.

The gigantic ammonite fossil, buge fossil skull of an elephant and the brontosaurus (model) attracts the attention of most of the visitors in the

geology gallery. Above all, the fossils are the invaluable treasures of our bounty earth.

Fossil Rhinoceros Skull from Sathankulam, Tuticorin District.



Fossilwood from Thiruvakkarai which is on an open display in the museum

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF GOVERNMENT MUSEUM, CHENNAI

K. Sekar,
Curator, Children's Museum

"Children's Museum" is s place of wonder for the Children. In general museum is "An Educational Institution in s Treasure House" and for children it is s magic carpet which takes them from the land of books to the land of objects. It encourages s child to probe and to discover new horizons. It directs the child into constructive and worthwhile pastimes. It moulds the sound citizen of the future.

In Chennai Government Museum Campus the foundation stone was laid for a separate building for the Children's Museum during the International Museum Week celebrations in October ,1956, by His Excellence Shri Sri Prakasa, who was the then Governor of Tamil Nadu. Later this proposal was once again renewed in 1979 during the International Year of Children, and the Children's Museum in Chennai Museum Campus was inaugurated by His Excellence Dr.P.C.Alexander, Governor of Tamil Nadu on 11th April 1988.

The Children's Museum of the Government Museum, Chennai consists of Basement, ground floor and first floor of 5000 sq.ft. area each. The architecture of the Children's Museum is an ideal one as it is a model museum building comprising all facilities of s modern museum. The display arrangement in this Children's Museum reveal to the children the world in which they lives, arouses intellectual curiosity and bring all out door life with in its walls and opens the door to the world of wonder. This Museum has galleries such as the Civilisation Gallery, the Costume dolls Gallery, the Science Gallery , Transportation Gallery and Technology Gallery

The Civilisation Gallery

In the ground floor, civilisation gallery starts with the story of prehistoric man and the development of civilisations through the ages in different parts of the World. In this series we have depicted the life of early man, then the temple model of Jigurath dedicated to God Nannar, and buildings in the city of Sumer, constructing technique of pyramid and a model of Great Pyramid with oasis in Egyptian Civilisation, model of Mohanjadaro town in Indus Valley, the Euphrates river, Hanging Garden and

Ishtar Gate in Babylonian, temple of Hebrew God in Hebrew Civilisation, ship building scene of Phoenician sea farers, the models of decorated palaces of Minoans and Mycenaeans the Aecropolis and Athens city in Greek Civilisation, worshipping celtics, Great Wall of China and building structures of Mayan Civilisation are well illustrated. At the end. The five fold geographical divisions of Ancient Tamilagam are represented with their respective deity and their occupation, landscape etc.,

The Costume Dolls Gallery

In the costume dolls gallery, 153 costume dolls with traditional costume, representing 25 countries are displayed in 21 diorama showcases to illustrate the costume character, cultural heritage and the sartorial habits of the people of those countries

Moreover a series of dolls illustrating the costumes in classical dances of India, namely Bharathanatyam, Kathakali, Kathak and Manipuri are also on display.

The Science Gallery:

In the science gallery, which is in the first floor, exhibits pertaining to natural and physical sciences are in 33 showcases. It starts with the formation of earth and other planets of solar system, working models of a valcano, mineral treasures of India, miniature plaster-cast models of extinct dinosaurs and mammals are displayed in their natural environment in dioramatic showcases. For the benefit of students, classification of plants and animals, models, explaining the physiology of plants, amphibians, reptile, birds, mammals and human beings are displayed in Natural Science Section.

In the Physical Science Section models explaining principles of magnetism, electromagnetism, electricity and electronics are represented through interactive models. Calculating instruments in chronological order, peripheral hardware items of Computer like circuit boards, VDU, Key board, magnetic tapes, hard disc drives, core memory and print band are displayed to impart knowledge about computer. Paintings illustrating various stages of development in communication, Stroger telephone exchange with two telephones, India's first radio transmitter used in Chennai remote control miniature models of car, ship and aeroplane, scale models of satellite launch

cloth, wood, palm-leaf were used for paintings, the paintings did not survive Illustrated palm-leaf manuscripts came into being only from the 10th Century AD.

Moghul emperors, inspired by the Persian art, introduced the concept of miniature painting Even though, this art was in existence since 13th Century AD, it developed and became popular only in the 15th Century AD, under the patronage of Akbar Later, this form of art spread to other parts of India Rajput School of Art, Kangara School of Art etc, were evolved out of it. These miniatures unlike the Moghul art used Hinduism as their main subject, though in the miniature form. The Tanjore School of Art was patronised by Serfoji. It dealt with not only Hindu themes but also with portraiture

At the close of the 19th Century AD, the miniature schools all over India lost their prominence. In the late 19th and early 20th Centuries there was renaissance through the British artists and Indian artists. The modern art in India believed in portraying the common man in realistic atmosphere

Painting was not a popular art form in Tamil Nadu. The Pallavas, the Cholas, the Pandhyas preferred sculptures, the sculptural reliefs were painted. The Maratha rulers introduced Tanjore panel paintings during the 17th Century AD. This is in fact a renaissance for the art of painting in Tamil Nadu.

Paintings on Canvas

Canvas (cloth) has always been an important support for painting The Egyptians first produced cotton in the days of the Pharaohs while the Chinese first produced silk. It is difficult to say exactly when cloth was used for painting, as it is a perishable material. There are many references to them in early literature. Cloth was a popular support to paint on as it was cheap, easy to preserve and store Canvas paintings were used in India in many ways. In temples, they served as wall hangings for decoration as well as for religious teaching They were used as narrative scrolls by wandering bands that delighted villagers with myths and legends belonging to Hinduism, Buddhism or Islam.

In India, canvas paintings are of various kinds belonging to the different parts of the country. Each had a distinct style and technique of painting.

Technique

Fabrics were painted or printed in several ways The various ways are:

1. Direct application of paint on to the fabric with a brush or block
2. Application of Dye by the Mordant Process.
3. The Resist Process and
4. Canvas Paintings

1. Direct Application of Paint nn to the Fabric with a Brush nr Block

By this technique, paint is applied direct on the surface of the fabric either by a brush or block. As this is done directly on the fabric with out any ground, the painting cannot be a good one.

2. Application nf Dye by the Mordent Process

In this process, the fabric is prepared beforehand with different mordents and then dyed. The reaction between the dye and the mordent produces the colour Changing the dilution of the mordent can vary the shades of colour. E.g. Kalamkari.

3. Resist Process

By the resist process, certain portion of the fabric is impregnated with wax, gum, clay etc., and is then dyed. The dye will not dye the portions where resist has been applied. The resist is removed after the dying process.

4. Canvas Painting

In the case of painting of canvas, the canvas support for a painting is a strong cloth. The canvas was coated, or primed, with an inert white powder like chalk, gesso, zinc oxide, titanium oxide in a glue medium, to form a uniform layer or ground. Modern canvas is brought ready – primed with lead white and linseed oil. The next is paint layer, which is covered with varnish finally to protect the subject.

Deterioration of Paintings

Deterioration of the canvas (cloth) is due to the oxidation of the cellulose fibres. There is always a danger of the growth of microorganisms like fungi, moulds etc., in humid conditions. Silver fish, cockroaches, beetles and termites are some of the insects that damage paintings. Climatic variations have a profound effect on the condition of paintings Cleavage of paint layer from the ground due to climatic variations causes flaking of paint because the paint is unable to adapt to the change Due to stress cracks develop. The varnish gets darkened due to age

Condition of Madras Medical College Paintings:

The paintings were in a very bad state of affairs mostly with out frames and backing Since they were all dumped in a room with out any free air circulation, fungi and insects affected most of them. Dust accumulation, browning of varnish, loss of pigments, loss of canvas, cracks, wrinkling are some of the defects noticed on the paintings

Painting of Symons Before Treatment

Details of Paintings:

These paintings include the oil portraits of the doyen medical practitioners of the yester years in the Madras Medical College They are.

1. Surgeon General William Robert
2. Dr. Michael Cudmire Furnell
3. Surgeon General Chipperfield (1865-1868)
4. Lt. Col Symons, I.M.S.
5. Surgeon General P. V. Cherian (2Nos.)
6. Dr A. Lakshmanaswamy Mudaliar
7. Dr. Guruswamy Mudaliar
8. Dr Koman
9. Two paintings whose names are not known.

About the Laboratory:

The Chemical Conservation and Research Laboratory of the Government Museum, Chennai, which was established for the conservation of museum objects in 1930 is at present extending services in the

conservation of art objects for other institutions on charge basis. Being a research institution under the University of Madras, besides conducting research for the award of Ph.D. Degree, it provides training in conservation of art and cultural heritage. One of such programmes was conducted for six of the final year students of Government College of Arts and Crafts, Chennai for two months in November and December 1999. They were taught the conservation techniques of restoring oil paintings by the Laboratory staff and the Madras Medical College Paintings were restored in this period with the help of the students under the supervision of the Laboratory staff.

Details of Restoration Work:

Painting of Symons After Treatment

These paintings were studied physically and documentation was done. Cleaned to remove the dust. The lose paint layers were arrested by tissue paper facing to the front using *maida* flour paste. The backside of the canvas was cleaned and a new canvas was given as a fresh support using beeswax-mastic resin (3:1) as an adhesive. The excess resin mixture was removed with organic solvents such as benzene. After the removal of the tissue paper using moist cotton swab, the painting was put on the stretcher and nailed. The browned varnish was removed with the help of rectified spirit and turpentine (9:1) using a cotton swab. The places, where there were loss of pigments and canvas in filling was done with zinc oxide and linseed oil and allowed to dry. Then the in filled portions were polished and suitable acrylic colours were added to match the surroundings. New frames were made, gold gilded and framed giving a varnished backing.

Conclusion:

The restored paintings were kept on display in the Centenary Exhibition Hall of the Museum for the public view. They were handed over to Dr. Rajan Santhosham of the Madras Medical College on behalf of the Dean of the college by the Commissioner of Museums for display in the College.

CONSEVATION SERVICES IN GOVERNMENT MUSEUM, CHENNAI

Dr. V. Jeyaraj,
Curator, Chemical Conservation and Research Laboratory,

Introduction

Government Museum, Chennai is a multipurpose museum, which was originally established as a simple museum with a collection of 1100 geological specimens in 1851. To day it has grown very large with its international collections and some of the collections have been transferred to the district museums in the district head quarters in Tamil Nadu. At present there are nineteen district museums.

In order to meet the conservation requirements of the museum, the conservation laboratory was open in 1930. Now it has grown as Chemical Conservation and Research Laboratory and offering research facilities to Ph. D. research scholars

Conservation Activities

The Chemical Conservation and Research Laboratory of this museum is the central laboratory for the conservation purposes of all the museums including the government Museum, Chennai. This laboratory is looking after the growing demands of this department

Conservation Services

There were many requests from various departments and therefore a scheme of Conservation Services was introduced in 1995 for the benefit of those who are interested in the conservation of antiquities. This scheme is charge based and charges rates as follows:

Rules and Regulations to Undertake the Conservation Services for Individnals and Institutious

1. Persons or institutions who would like to enjoy the conservation services scheme must apply in the prescribed form to the Commissioner of Museums, Government Museum, Chennai – 600 008. The application form may be received from the office of the Government Museum, Chennai on payment of Rs. 10/-(Rupees ten only) and sufficiently stamped envelop or in person.

2. Photographs taken at the time of application should be enclosed.
3. Details of the object(s) should be enclosed.
4. An undertaking should be given in writing that the object(s), whicb will be entrusted, belong to the individual / institution and this is not for commercial purposes.
5. The charges pertaining to the examination, travel to the spot, conservation charges, cost of materials etc. should be paid before the object(s) are entrusted for the work.
6. When the conservation officials undertake tour outside Chennai, all arrangements for their stay, travel etc., should be deposited for this purpose. Balance will be returned, if any. Demand draft may be received in favour of Curator, Zoology Section, Government Museum, Chennai – 600 008 payable in Chennai.
7. The conservatioo staff will do research on the object(s) entrusted with them and articles published. But, due courtesy will be given to the owner of the object(s).
8. The Laboratory will carry out conservation work as per the accepted current technique adopted for the objects preserved in the museum with utmost care. If the individual is interested, they may discuss with the head of the Laboratory for clarificatioo of the techniques.
9. The time to complete the work will be decided only after examination. Normally, the minimum time required is at least 3 months. Special charges will be levied, if the work is to be completed very urgently.
10. Movable objects should be handed over to the Laboratory for treatment after the department of museums accepts the application. The object(s) should be taken over after the completion of the work from the Laboratory.
11. Any clarification required further in this regard my kindly be got from tbe Curator, Cbemical Conservation and Research Laboratory, Government Museum, Chennai – 600 008 in person.
12. All letter correspondences in this regard should be made only with the Commissiooer of Museums, Government Museum, Cbennai – 600 008

Examination and Labour Charges for the Conservation Services

Examination Charges

Place of the Examination	Per Hour / Day	Report Preparation Up to 5 pages	Photography	Transportation
At the Chemical Conservation and Research Laboratory	50 (Per hour)	100	Depending upon the number of objects	Nil
Out side the Museum in Chennai	200 (Per hour)	100	Do	To and fro Transportation should be provided by the intender
Out station	500 (Per day)	100	Do	T A & D. A. as per the Government rules Accommodation also should be provided for the staff deputed

Conservation Labour Charges in Rupees

Type of Object(s)	A Simple	B Normal	C Bad	D Very bad	E Worst
Painting (Per Square foot)	100	150	200	250	300
Bronze (Per foot)	200	250	300	350	400
Coins (Per 100 grams)	20	25	30	35	40
Palm-leaf Manuscripts (Per 100 leaves)	50	60	70	80	90
Documents (Per Square foot)	5	10	15	20	25
Wooden objects (Per Cubic foot)	100	150	200	250	300
Leather objects (Per Square foot)	50	60	70	80	90
Stone objects (Per Square foot)	100	150	200	250	300

The Curator, Chemical Conservation and Research Laboratory of the Museum will fix the charges as per the rates prescribed above after examination. The charges are in rupees. The rates for other objects will be decided only after examining the objects.

Conservation Work Carried Out in This Period

The major conservation services executed during the period of October 1999 to March 2000 are detailed here.

1. Madras Medical College, Chennai-600 003.
2. Government Royapettah Hospital, Chennai-600 04.
3. Government Ophthalmic Hospital, Chennai-600 008.
4. Dr. C. Vijiaraghavachariar Memorial Library, Salem.
5. Madras Christian College, Chennai-600 059.

Mode of Execution of Work

The Laboratory has is adapting a policy of using people or volunteers interested in conservation for carrying out the conservation work. For carrying out the conservation work pertaining to the Madras Medical College and Government Ophthalmic Hospital, Chennai six students from the Government College of Arts and Crafts, Chennai-600 003 were chosen and training was provided them and thy were utilised to carryout the conservation work. Besides these two volunteers of the laboratory were pressed for service. The work was completed with in four months.

The life size bronze statue of Dr. C. Vijiaraghavachariar was restored with in three days with the help of 28 eight students after giving training to them. In all these cases well-experienced conservation staff of this laboratory closely watched the students. This Laboratory has created a great awareness in the field of conservation and at present many conservation projects are on the wait.

The organisations, which wait are,

1. Southern Railway, Chennai-600 003
2. Government Ophthalmic Hospital, Chennai-600 008.

Many individuals are also waiting to avail the opportunity.

Application for Seeking Conservation Service

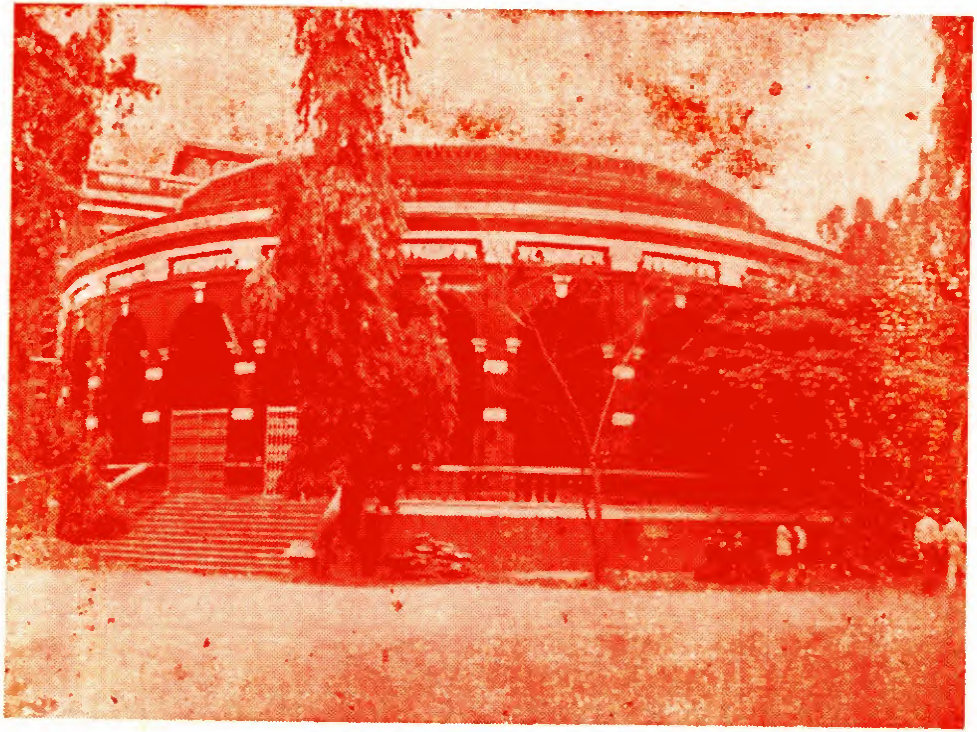
Name of the Institution / Individual Seeking Conservation Services	:
Address	:
Phone Number	:
E-Mail Address	:
Details of the Antiquities / Objects including name, dimensions, history of the objects, photographs etc. (Attach separate sheet, if necessary)	:

Reasons for the Deterioration : /Damage

Ownership of the Objects

Declaration

I We, ,declare that the object (s) mentioned above belong(s) to me / us /our institution. I shall not seek any legal complaint against the Government Museum, Chennai or any official of the museum for the unforeseen damage. If there is any question on the ownership of the object(s), I shall take the responsibility to settle case at my / our own expenses. I have read the rules and regulations for obtaining the conservation services. I agree to accept the conditions laid. I shall bring the antiquities and hand over to the persons directed by the museum and receive them after the conservation work at my own. I am not an agent to undertake this work and I shall not use this opportunity as a commercial one.

Signature of the Beneficiary

Place:
Date :